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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, Jr., a Senator from the State of Maine.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, today show our law-makers the road where they should travel. Guide them with Your wisdom and grace, keeping them from the detours that prevent them from doing Your will. Lord, lead them to Your desired destination. Instruct them with Your precepts so that they will live for the honor of Your Name.

Eternal God, we keep our eyes on You, for You are the source of our strength and our shelter in life's storms.

Lord, we continue to pray for the Ukrainian people.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, Jr., a Senator from the State of Maine, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KING thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Last night, five people were killed by a Palestinian gunman outside Tel Aviv. It was the fifth time in just 2 weeks that unprovoked violence has shattered lives on Israel's streets. Eleven innocent victims are now dead. They include people of different faiths. Several were Arab Israelis.

As Jews, Christians, and Muslims prepare for some of the holiest days of

the year, families in Israel are in mourning. I know I speak for all of our colleagues in offering them the Senate's deepest sympathies.

America, like our Arab and Israeli friends, must remain clear-eyed. The war against terrorism will not fight itself. We cannot afford to be complacent; we must continue to invest in the common mission of security and peace; and we must always stand firmly with our ally Israel.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. President, now on an entirely different matter, I oppose Judge Jackson's Supreme Court confirmation for three main reasons. First, Judge Jackson has refused to follow the Ginsburg-Breyer model and denounce partisan Court-packing. She testified she would be "thrilled to be one of however many."

Second, Judge Jackson was not sufficiently forthcoming on judicial philosophy to dispel President Biden's public litmus test that he would only nominate a judicial activist.

And, third, Judge Jackson's personal policy views on criminal sentencing have clearly slanted her jurisprudence. The average violent criminal who was convicted in Judge Jackson's courtroom got a sentence nearly 2 years lower than the Federal guidelines. The average drug criminal, gun criminal, sex criminal, and financial criminal before Judge Jackson all came in underneath the guidelines as well.

In the specific area of child exploitation crimes, the nominee was lenient to the extreme. The average Federal judge sentences one out of every three child pornography possessors to a sentence within the stiff guidelines.

Judge Jackson never did it once. The national average is 1 out of 3, and Judge Jackson went 0 for 11. As she told Senators repeatedly, this was not some case-by-case coincidence but rather her consistent policy bias.

I was making policy determinations.

I have policy disagreements with certain aspects of the operation of the guidelines.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The Washington Post just interviewed a convicted possessor of child pornography who was supposed to get 8 to 10 years under the guidelines. The prosecutor wanted 2 years; Judge Jackson gave him 3 months—her “policy disagreements” in action.

This criminal realizes he was lucky to end up in Judge Jackson’s courtroom. Here is what he told the Post:

I wasn’t very happy that she gave me three months, though, after reflection when I was in jail, I was hearing from other people who said it was their first time arrested and they got five years, six years.

This is not a few cherry-picked cases. This is a consistent thread that runs through Judge Jackson’s accomplished legal career.

In 2011, as vice chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Judge Jackson reportedly made the jaw-dropping argument that if criminals were going to recidivate no matter what, it doesn’t matter whether we lock them up for a long time or let them out early.

If we keep them in jail for the extra 36 months, or whatever, they’re going to recidivate at the same rate.

A U.S. attorney replied with the obvious point that criminals can only re-offend if they are back on the streets.

In 2020, Judge Jackson rewrote the FIRST STEP Act on the bench to let a fentanyl trafficker out of jail early. In 2018, while initially sentencing this defendant, she apologized to him and voiced frustration that the law forced her to apply a tough sentence. Two years later, she twisted the law to let him out.

Last year, Judge Jackson granted compassionate release to someone who shot and killed a U.S. marshal. The Parole Commission had repeatedly denied this release, but Judge Jackson let him out.

These are not personal criticisms of Judge Jackson. They are what the nominee herself calls these decisions “policy differences.” And policy-making is supposed to happen here in this Chamber, not in the courthouse across the street.

This isn’t just about this nomination. The Biden administration has a sweeping project to make the whole Federal judiciary softer on crime.

Even as this violent crimewave we are experiencing sweeps across America, the Biden administration is pursuing an ideological mission to make the Federal bench kinder and gentler to criminals.

Judge Jackson’s record suggests she stretches the judicial role to advance that project.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, now on a related matter, judicial independence is essential to our Republic. It is integral to the rule of law. And for the most part, since the Democratic Party’s last run at partisan Court-packing in the 1930s, both parties have respected it. Ah, but lately, Washington Democrats have gone off the rails.

In 2019, Democratic Senators tried to openly bully the Supreme Court into a

certain outcome. They wrote a threatening amicus brief saying the Court had better “heal itself.”

In 2020, the Democratic leader himself stood on the steps of the Supreme Court and threatened multiple sitting Justices, by name, if they didn’t reach the policy outcome the liberals wanted.

In 2021, President Biden assisted the delegitimizing campaign by constructing a pseudoscholarship commission to ponder ideas like partisan Court-packing and unconstitutional term limits.

Far-left activist groups mounted a public pressure campaign to push Justice Breyer to retire. Just last week, the No. 2 Senate Democrat, our colleague from Illinois, claimed that the primary safeguard against partisan Court-packing is the Senate’s 60-vote threshold. This was a very revealing comment, considering that Senator DURBIN and the vast majority of his fellow Democrats just tried to destroy that very threshold a couple of months back.

And now, in the last few days, the latest chapter, the quest to delegitimize the Supreme Court found its latest outlet. This time it is a coordinated effort to nullify the presence of Justice Clarence Thomas on the Court. The far left wants another crack at what they tried and failed to do way back in 1991.

Washington Democrats are now trying to bully this exemplary judge of 30-plus years out of an entire legal subject or off the Court altogether. Far-left House Members are talking about dusting off their party’s impeachment addiction for a third consecutive year.

They are boasting about how they successfully bullied their senior leadership into impeachment in the past. Make no mistake, this performative outrage is not in earnest. This is a political hit, part of liberals’ yearslong quest to delegitimize the Court, all because our laws and Constitution occasionally inconvenience the Democrats’ radical agenda.

This isn’t new. It is a tired old topic. In recent years, the far left has issued near-constant—constant—demands for the late Justice Scalia, Justice Alito, Justice Gorsuch, Justice Kavanaugh, and Justice Barrett to recuse themselves from various issues where the far left feared they might not like a certain ruling, all based on spurious accusations about faith, ethical problems, or partiality. This new public pressure campaign is just a continuation of this well-worn pattern.

It has no basis in Justice Thomas’s decades of impeccable service on the Court. The Justice and the entire Court should feel free to completely ignore all of this. Justice Clarence Thomas is a great American, an outstanding Justice. He is faithful to the text of our laws and Constitution. His writing is clear. His reasoning is rigorous and transparent.

I have total confidence in Justice Thomas’s impartiality in every aspect of the work of the Court.

Each of the nine Justices should feel free to make every single judicial decision they make with total independence and complete freedom. What cases they hear, how they hear them, how they rule, whether and when they recuse themselves, and whether and when they retire, these are all judicial decisions.

All nine Justices deserve total independence as they approach every judicial decision they make. This clumsy bullying from the political branches is really beyond the pale. Justice Thomas is an exemplary jurist who has modeled fidelity to the rule of law for more than 30 years and counting.

I hope none of these Justices give any of the radical left’s various pressure campaigns a minute’s thought.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so today is going to be a very busy day on the Senate floor, as we continue advancing even more of President Biden’s well-qualified nominees.

Later this morning, we hold an especially important vote to proceed on the nomination of Alvaro Bedoya, tapped by President Biden to sit as a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

The FTC right now is one of the best Agencies for protecting Americans from price gougers, manipulators, and those trying to rip off American consumers, or at least it would be if it had full membership. Instead, the FTC has remained deadlocked for just about the entirety of the Biden administration because of Republican obstruction, and the consequences for American consumers have cascaded one after the other.

We all know that prices have been going way up and hurting a lot of Americans. There are serious reasons to fear a lot is due to some gouging and manipulation. The FTC is about the best Agency to look for this. But as long as its membership is deadlocked, it cannot act.

This is especially urgent when it comes to energy prices. Americans are seeing higher prices at the pump, despite massive profits for oil companies. So we need a fully operational FTC to investigate and take action if warranted.

That is why moving forward on Mr. Bedoya is so urgently needed. And, frankly, the obstruction over Mr. Bedoya is truly unacceptable, given the FTC is so important for fighting potential price manipulations.

Republicans know this. Yet his nomination has been deadlocked not once but twice at the committee level. For all the howling our Republican friends are doing about rising costs, they are truly content with dragging their feet on public servants who could actually help solve the problem. So shame on those who are blocking that.

Without Mr. Bedoya, the FTC and members are left handicapped and incapable of moving forward. So today's motion to discharge is a matter of immense importance, and I hope all my colleagues who care about fighting inflation and price manipulation and collusion vote to proceed with Mr. Bedoya's nomination.

And on one other point I wanted to make, I read that stock buybacks by the oil companies have dramatically increased this year. Why is that money going into stock buybacks instead of into other much more productive uses? This is another thing the FTC could take a look at.

Now, as the day progresses, I also want my colleagues to realize the possibility of additional votes later today. On Monday, I filed cloture on five individuals to fill other important roles across the administration. Today, we will move on the first of these nominees, but we are working to move forward with the rest as soon as we can.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, now on COVID, negotiations on COVID public health response funding continue. Yesterday, I met again with my Republican colleague Senator ROMNEY, as we work to an agreement, and, today, these negotiations will keep going.

To keep the process moving forward in the Senate, last night I took the first procedural step on a legislative vehicle through which the Senate could pass COVID public health funding, when the time comes that both sides reach an agreement.

We are not yet at the finish line, but we will keep working throughout the day, and I am committed to working with the other side reasonably and in good faith. The consequences of not getting COVID funding are really serious—scary, almost.

Additional public health funding is crucial for making sure every American can get a vaccine if needed, including booster doses and potentially new, more effective vaccines down the line. New funding would help make sure we have enough testing supplies throughout the country, which we know is perhaps the most effective way to keep track of the spread of the virus.

Of course, more funding would ensure the Federal Government can continue providing treatments like monoclonal antibody treatments, which are invaluable for preventing severe COVID infections. The lack of therapeutics is probably the greatest need of all, and we need money so we can have a supply so when, God forbid, the next variant hits, we will immediately be able to counter

it with the kind of medicines that are needed that limit the severity of the infection. The rest of the world is racing to buy up the supply of these treatments and these therapeutics, and if the United States falls behind because of a lack of funding, vulnerable Americans and our whole country will pay the price.

The bottom line is this: Both sides should come to an agreement for more funding as quickly as possible because that would mean more vaccines, more therapeutics, and more testing so we can keep schools and communities open, and when and if another new variant hits, we can stay as "normal" as possible.

If a new COVID variant extends its nasty tentacles across the country and we don't have the tools to respond, then woe is us. We don't want to see that. Americans don't want to endure that. So let's keep working to try to reach an agreement soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from South Dakota.

OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, American families are currently struggling with the worst inflation in 40 years—40 years. Food prices, gas prices, used car prices—everywhere Americans look, they are paying more. Wages increased on average last year, but inflation outstripped wage growth, which means that, instead of a wage increase, a lot of Americans got a de facto pay cut. And there is no clear end in sight.

It is no wonder that nearly two-thirds of the American people disapprove of President Biden's handling of the economy, and they are right to do so because Democrats bear a substantial part of the responsibility for this inflation crisis. While it is true that supply chain issues and the reopening of economies after COVID shutdowns contributed somewhat to inflationary pressures, a big part of the reason for our current inflation crisis is the Democrats' decision to pass the American Rescue Plan last March.

The very definition of "inflation" is too many dollars chasing too few goods and services, and that is exactly the situation that Democrats helped create with their so-called American Rescue Plan. Democrats took control mere weeks after Congress had passed a fifth—fifth—bipartisan COVID relief bill totaling more than \$900 billion and meeting essentially all current, pressing COVID needs.

It was abundantly clear that we were not in immediate need of trillions more in government spending, but that

didn't stop Democrats. Now that they were in charge, they were eager to take advantage of the COVID crisis to begin implementing their Big Government vision.

So, in the name of COVID relief, they pushed through a massive, partisan, \$1.9 trillion piece of legislation filled with unnecessary spending and handouts to Democrat interest groups, and the outcome was entirely predictable. Democrats flooded the economy with unnecessary government money, and the economy overheated as a result.

Unfortunately, there is no going back and undoing the American Rescue Plan Act; although, given the inflation crisis it helped create, I wonder if some Democrats wish they could go back and undo it.

There is no easy fix for Democrats' self-inflicted inflation crisis, but there are things that we can do to at least lessen its effects, starting with legislation to help ease supply chain woes.

Last week, the Senate Commerce Committee reported my bipartisan shipping legislation out of committee by voice vote. The Ocean Shipping Reform Act, which I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, would help ease supply chain pressures by improving the fluidity of the supply chain.

For some time now, I have been hearing reports of ocean carriers refusing to transport certain goods, often American agricultural products. This would be a difficult situation at any time, as export markets around the world are critically important to American producers, but it is particularly painful at a time when inflation is soaring and the supply chain is under significant strain.

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act is designed to address these kinds of shipping problems and create a more level playing field for American producers. Our legislation would give the Federal Maritime Commission increased authority to respond to unfair ocean carrier practices whether that involves a refusal to carry certain cargo, like agricultural commodities, or discriminating against certain commodities for export.

Our bill would also provide the FMC with tools to more quickly resolve detention and demurrage disputes, which would bring greater efficiency and transparency to a process that leaves many shippers frustrated, especially agricultural producers and other small businesses; and our legislation would take steps to improve the movement of goods at our Nation's ports, which would help ease supply chain bottlenecks and improve the speed at which goods reach consumers.

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act would bring long-term positive changes to the maritime supply chain, which I hope would benefit exporters, importers, and consumers alike.

I was very pleased that our legislation received strong bipartisan support in the Commerce Committee, and I hope it can swiftly pass here in the

Senate. This is the kind of bill that we should be working on if we want to help alleviate our inflation situation and improve the economy.

I was dismayed to see that the President's budget, which was released this week, would double down on the kind of excessive government spending that helped get us into this inflation crisis in the first place. After a year of progressively worsening inflation, you would think Democrats would have learned their lesson, but, clearly, the President is still intent on more reckless spending, coupled, I might add, with job-killing tax hikes—and not just any tax hikes. According to Bloomberg, the President's budget would add up to being the largest tax hike in American history in dollar terms.

I hope that my Democratic colleagues here in Congress will decide to skip the President's irresponsible tax-and-spending proposals and focus on measures that would actually help alleviate this inflation crisis, not make it worse.

While there is no easy fix for our inflation situation, we can start to make things better for Americans with bipartisan legislation like the Ocean Shipping Reform Act. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support the legislation Senator KLOBUCHAR and I have produced.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I met with restaurant owners from all over my State last month—from Seattle to Yakima, to Spokane—and we talked about the American Rescue Plan and how important that was and how that bill made recovery possible for so many restaurants in our State—but not for everyone, and that is why I am on the Senate floor today.

The American Rescue Plan was absolutely a lifeline. It designated more than \$28 billion to establish a Restaurant Revitalization Fund that gave restaurant owners the financial support they needed to keep their doors open, to rehire workers, and to deal with the continued effects of COVID-19.

More than 3,500 Washington State businesses have received over \$9 billion in Federal loans and grants and debt relief since the start of the pandemic. That is not even considering the flexible dollars that we provided local governments to help local small businesses. Now, that really made a difference and helped a lot of folks keep their doors open and their employees on the payroll, but for many restaurant

owners, the funds were gone before they were able to get the same relief their neighbors got.

I don't think it is right that a business on one side of the street in Seattle got Federal dollars from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund but another mom-and-pop shop just next-door and just as qualified—that also got approved—didn't get the money because the funds ran dry.

Now, I know this is true for communities in red States and in blue States—that our restaurants are often the heart of a community. They serve their local favorites that remind us of home. They sponsor our sports teams and community causes. They allow us to get together and share a meal and celebrate with family and friends and make memories. Making these businesses whole is critical for our economy, but it is essential to preserving what makes Seattle “Seattle” or Spokane “Spokane.”

I know many of my Republican colleagues feel the same way. So I want us to look at every possible option to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and get help to every restaurant that applied and got approved but didn't get the same help as everyone else.

We have got good bipartisan bills to get this done. Our legislation would help hard-to-reach businesses and communities apply for the assistance because I really want to make sure we are helping actual small businesses, not giant corporations that don't need it.

Any Senator who has spoken to local restaurant owners knows they are dealing, still, with really tough challenges right now: increased costs from inflation and shortages of everything from straws to chicken wings, and it is not easy to find wait staff and cooks and a lot more. That is why it is so urgent that we get a bipartisan small business relief package—that makes our restaurants whole—over the finish line as soon as possible. So let's do whatever we need to do to get this done and keep our restaurants open.

CORONAVIRUS

Now, Mr. President, everyone here knows how strongly I feel that we get a COVID supplemental passed as soon as possible. We do not know when the next variant might come or how bad it could be. We don't want to end up in the same position as before, when we did not have enough tests or vaccines or therapeutics. We all know we have to get funding for a COVID supplemental passed and soon.

So let's get both of these passed together to make sure we are doing everything to keep every part of our economy up and running and so that this administration has what it needs to fund every other tool that we know will keep restaurants open, keep our schools open, and every other part of our communities.

I feel strongly that we need to pass both of those bills. So let's get them

done together, and let's get it done as soon as possible. Let's keep America healthy and our restaurants open for business.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Kaine). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we have some rare good news on the public health front. COVID cases are down at the lowest level since July. Crucially, hospitalizations and deaths are also down dramatically, more than 70 percent lower than they were in January during the Omicron wave. Compared to just a few months ago, our Nation is experiencing far less suffering and death, thank goodness.

But despite the progress we have made, COVID continues to be a threat. Every day, 800 American families lose a loved one to COVID—800 a day—and catch new infections, which present an opportunity for the virus to mutate.

We are at a turning point in this fight against COVID. Now, we need to strengthen our healthcare system. We need to stay a step ahead of this deadly virus. That is especially true since the subvariant of Omicron—BA.2, as it is known—has become dominant in America.

Remember the frenzy last holiday season when we were running from pharmacy to pharmacy trying to find rapid tests for our families or waiting in the freezing cold for hours on end to get a PCR test? Why would we ever want to be caught flatfooted again? We need to sustain our public health funding so that our hospitals and healthcare professionals have the equipment and tools they need to keep us safe.

The one thing dramatically worse than returning to the dark days of COVID-19 and the deadly variants would be to return unprepared. If we want to keep our masks off—and I do—if we want to keep our kids in school—and I do—and our businesses open, we need to make smart investments in America's capacity to confront future strains of these variants. We can't continue this cycle of neglect and panic. These pendulum swings harm our health system and contribute to unnecessary costs and suffering.

Congress must come together on a bipartisan basis. And shouldn't we all agree on this: that we move as a nation in the same direction? That means providing funding to purchase new booster doses, including those which the FDA authorized this week for adults over the age of 50. I got mine yesterday morning. If we don't purchase these vaccines now ahead of time, then we

will be sleepwalking into the next deadly wave.

We also need to ensure that as soon as the FDA authorizes a vaccine for kids under the age of 5, parents can get their kids protected as soon as possible.

Funding also is needed for oral antivirals and other therapeutics to treat patients who contract a serious case of COVID. These treatments will keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed.

And we need funding to maintain the testing infrastructure we have built up over the last several months, like President Biden's successful program to put up to 1 billion—billion—rapid tests right at the doors of every American who wants one.

The fact is, Congress should have already provided funding for these life-saving resources, but we still haven't done it. This lack of funding has already hit my home State of Illinois. Last week, shipments of monoclonal antibody treatments to our State were scaled back 35 percent to preserve the supply. Also last week, thanks to a lack of funds, the Department of Health and Human Services announced they would no longer pay hospitals and health clinics for testing they have provided to 30 million uninsured Americans.

Several free community-based testing sites and pharmacies in Illinois are now closing up. The money is running dry. At one community health center in Illinois, one-third of the patients are uninsured. That clinic has received more than \$150,000 to test, treat, and vaccinate the patients—money well spent not just to protect these patients but every Illinoisan. If Congress doesn't provide new funding, that health center may be forced to close for good.

All of us want to keep the masks off for good and move past this coronavirus, but to think we can just wish away COVID forever would be naive, irresponsible, and fiscally unwise.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join in a bipartisan effort to provide new funding for our COVID preparation response efforts. Let's be ready for whatever this virus might bring.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JASMINE HUNT DIMITRIOU

Mr. President, finally, I want to take a special moment to thank a member of my staff who is leaving on a new assignment.

History tells us there have been some extraordinary African-American women in the field of science. Dr. Alice Ball was a chemist who developed the first successful treatment for leprosy. Dr. Patricia Bath was an ophthalmologist who invented something called the laserphaco probe, a tool used in cataract surgery. Dr. Shirley Jackson was a theoretical physicist and former Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

What did they all have in common? They were African-American women

who broke barriers and improved the lives of countless others, and they didn't get the public recognition they deserved.

Well, let me add another name to that list. Her name is Dr. Jasmine Hunt Dimitriou. Dr. Hunt—known as Jasmine in our office—joined my staff in 2010 on an American Association for the Advancement of Science fellowship. She was a newly minted Ph.D. in chemistry who had just graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

The fellowship in my office lasted a year, but thank goodness she liked it so she stayed. We persuaded her to stay longer and devote more than 10 years of her life to public service.

Over the years, Jasmine climbed the office ranks from fellow to lead policy adviser for science, energy, and environment, to legislative director.

Today is her last day in the Senate. She is leaving to take on a new challenge as Deputy Chief of Staff to Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm.

I know I speak for my entire staff when I say that we are thrilled for her. This is a well-deserved recognition and opportunity. I hate to lose her, but I never want to stand in the path of my staff if they have got a chance to promote themselves and to use their talents more effectively. We are going to miss her.

Jasmine grew up in Normal, IL, which is perfect because she is about as normal and stable a person as you will ever find. No matter how long the hours or how tumultuous the mood, she is always clear-headed and calm.

Her mother loved libraries and passed that love along to Jasmine and her brother Joseph. Thankfully, Jasmine remains a voracious reader and learner.

I don't know which is more complicated, understanding how to split an atom or how a bill becomes a law, but Jasmine has mastered both. During her years in the Senate, Jasmine and her husband Mike became parents to two of the cutest little girls. She also has been something of a mother figure to countless young members of my staff whose careers she nurtured.

Now she will bring her leadership for the Nation to the Department of Energy. I have no doubt that, in little time, she will manage to stop climate change with a Thanos snap. She is a remarkable scientist and public servant. I want to thank her for devoting so much of her time and talent to help me, to help the State of Illinois, and to serve this Nation.

Jasmine, best of luck.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

NOMINATION OF JUDITH DELZOPPO PRYOR

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the nomination of Judith Pryor to serve as First Vice President of the Ex-Im Bank of the United States. Now, the Ex-Im Bank was established to help U.S. exporters by providing financing to foreign buyers of U.S. products.

I have always been very skeptical about the merits of this mission, and I remain skeptical to this day. Ex-Im claims that it only takes risks that private lenders are unable or unwilling to take. That is a central message of the Ex-Im Bank.

We should stop ourselves right there and ask ourselves a question: If private lenders are unwilling or unable to take a particular risk, why should taxpayers be forced to take that risk?

And, at the same time, Ex-Im also claims it only makes safe bets. Mr. President, that is a complete contradiction. It is impossible to do both. Ex-Im can't only take transactions so risky that no one else will do them and, at the same time, only be doing safe transactions. It doesn't make any sense at all.

The fact is, Ex-Im wins business by systematically underpricing risk. That is why borrowers go to Ex-Im instead of any number of private institutions that wouldn't offer deals on the same terms that Ex-Im offers. That is why our largest banks go to Ex-Im for loan guarantees. The Ex-Im terms are too good to be true—at least too good to be true in the private sector. And that is evident by the kinds of transactions that Ex-Im approves.

Consider just last year: Ex-Im financed a deal guaranteeing an \$82 million loan from JPMorgan to Qantas airline for the purpose of buying jets made by General Electric. Now, let's think about this. JPMorgan is the largest bank in America, one of the largest banks in the world. Qantas is the largest airline in Australia. And General Electric is one of the largest industrial companies in the world.

Why did these companies need the American taxpayer to subsidize a deal among the three of them? The obvious answer is they don't. These are some of the biggest, most sophisticated companies in the world, and they have complete access to global capital markets every day of the week. They didn't turn to Ex-Im because they were unable to secure private financing. They turned to Ex-Im because they got a better deal than they would get in a strictly private transaction.

Now, as if that isn't galling enough, Ex-Im has now decided that American markets can't meet our domestic financing needs—purely domestic. I remind you, the U.S. capital markets are the largest, deepest, most sophisticated capital markets in the world by far. Anyone with a bright idea and a business plan can raise capital in the United States. They do it every day.

According to the Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of Small Business Capital Formation report for fiscal year 2021—last year—there were \$2.2 trillion in private offerings of debt and equity and \$1.7 trillion in initial public offerings and other registered securities. So that is almost \$4 trillion of capital markets activities in the United States. That is how big our capital markets are.

And then, separate from that are the banks. According to the Fed, there are about \$2½ trillion in outstanding commercial and industrial loans as of March 16.

My point is, the United States is not an economy that is starved of capital. It is awash with cash. Nevertheless, despite that, the Biden administration has instructed Ex-Im to develop a new Domestic Financing Program to expand the reach of the Bank into a whole new direction.

This proposed Domestic Financing Program would support creating or expanding domestic manufacturing businesses and infrastructure projects as long as there is some expectation that some arbitrary portion of the goods produced will be exported. And this can even include indirect exports. So, in other words, an Ex-Im finance manufacturer won't have to export a thing if he can claim that his customers will.

This is unbelievable. This is well beyond mission creep. As George Will observed in the Washington Post today, this is "mission gallop." And a program like this clearly subverts congressional intent and strains—and "strains" is a polite way to put the interpretation of Ex-Im's charter. And it does so to such an extent, really, I think, to make the charter basically meaningless.

There is no need—there is no reason—for Ex-Im to be providing domestic financing, none. As I said, we live in a highly developed market economy, like the most developed market economy in the world, and promising businesses have access to capital on competitive terms.

And just like all of Ex-Im's other programs—maybe even more so—the only way Ex-Im is going to win business in the domestic financing is if it either finances bad deals that the private sector wouldn't touch or it underprices the risks so that it is more attractive than the private financing.

So, earlier this month, I sent a letter to Ex-Im's President and Board Chair Reta Jo Lewis, and I requested that Ex-Im respond to a series of questions I have about this unprecedented new direction the administration wants to send the Ex-Im Bank. I also asked to withhold Board consideration of this Domestic Financing Program at least until there is a comprehensive framework that is published for notice and comment.

Before the Board votes to launch this whole new category of business at Ex-Im, shouldn't we all see: How is this program actually going to work? How expansive will it be? How expensive will it be? How many private lenders will be elbowed aside so that Ex-Im could be doing loans private banks would otherwise be doing?

And none of this has been spelled out. We don't have any answers to these important structural questions about this program. Yet my understanding is they are going to go ahead and launch this.

So I sent this letter. Ex-Im responded to my questions, but they remained

completely silent on my request to withhold Board consideration until there has been public discussion and debate about the specifics of this framework.

Only 3 days after I got the Ex-Im response to my questions, they noticed a Board of Directors meeting for April 14, at which they intend to consider and probably approve this Domestic Financing Program.

Now, this leads me to the reason that our Democratic colleagues want to push Ms. Pryor's nomination through urgently. See, it is my understanding that the Ex-Im Board needs at least three Senate-confirmed nominees in order to change its existing policies—certainly a policy as big as this one. Ex-Im only has two Senate-confirmed Board members now. So without Ms. Pryor, they couldn't launch this whole new program, which is a terrible idea in the first place.

So that brings me to Ms. Pryor. My concern with her is that she will continue to support, first, what I think is the unacceptable practice of Ex-Im providing taxpayer-funded subsidies to some of the world's largest and most well-capitalized companies, and I fear that she will move Ex-Im in the direction of supporting this whole new Domestic Financing Program.

Ms. Pryor has previously served on Ex-Im's Board, and during that time the JPMorgan-Qantas-General Electric deal that I mentioned earlier was a deal that she supported.

I asked Ms. Pryor a simple question during her nomination hearing, by the way. I said: Do these large, sophisticated American companies have access to private capital? She acknowledged that that is a simple question, and she refused to answer it. Now, why would she refuse to answer such a simple question for which the answer is obvious? It is because she didn't want to admit that these giant multinational firms obviously do have access to private capital, to alternative financing, and she didn't want to acknowledge that, despite that, Ex-Im still did the deal.

I am also concerned about another issue, which is the weakening of one of the very few taxpayer protections that is built into Ex-Im's charter. The charter includes a 2-percent cap on the permissible default rate. So no more than 2 percent of the assets on the books of Ex-Im can be in default at any point in time without precluding future lending. It puts a brake on Ex-Im expansion if they hit that 2-percent threshold.

Well, guess what? Ex-Im's default rate has trended toward that 2-percent cap. It is not quite there yet, but it is getting very close. That is why the President's budget requests that Congress temporarily waive the cap. Rather than address the problems with Ex-Im's deteriorating book of business, Ms. Pryor and the administration support this deeply flawed request to just double the statutory permissible default rate from 2 percent to 4 percent.

How is that good for taxpayers? It doesn't sound good to me.

Congress laid out a clear corrective measure in the event the default rate cap is breached. That is, you freeze the book of business. You acknowledge something is not going right. We have to fix that problem. Is Ex-Im or the Biden administration proposing to fix the problem? No. They just want to ignore it and just raise the cap, pretend it is not there.

I will be the first to acknowledge Ms. Pryor is clearly a competent person and well-qualified. She has a lot of experience. That is not my concern about her candidacy. My concern is that nothing in the entire nomination process—nothing in my discussions with her—has alleviated my concern that she would advance this badly flawed agenda, which is badly flawed in multiple ways, as I have laid out. It is also the case that the Biden administration and its supporters need Ms. Pryor now in order to advance this Domestic Financing Program.

For all of these reasons, I cannot support her candidacy, and I encourage my colleagues to vote against Ms. Pryor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I know we have an 11:45 vote scheduled.

I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing the nomination of Judith Pryor as Vice President of the Ex-Im Bank. I appreciate the ranking member of the committee's comments about her qualifications. She is clearly qualified.

What we need to always remember is our foreign competitors operate more than 100 export credit agencies and credit programs supporting our manufacturers. As if our policy has not been stupid enough as a country—PNTR with China, which caused the hollowing out of community after community in southwest Virginia and in my State and much of the area throughout the Midwest—China's export finance activity is larger than all of the export credit that G7 countries collectively provide. China will continue to use export credit to win manufacturing businesses in critical sectors.

In Ohio, we just lost two more light bulb manufactures, LED manufacturers. The light bulb was invented by an Ohioan, Thomas Edison, in a New Jersey lab. We used to lead the world. Now, 99 percent of LED light bulbs are made in China. Does that not teach us something?

How about semiconductors? We invented semiconductors. We only make about 10 percent of them in the country right now.

As First Vice President of Ex-Im, Ms. Pryor will help lead the Nation's official export credit agency as it supports workers and manufacturers throughout our country.

This is the most pro-worker President of the United States in my lifetime. He puts workers at the center of

our economic agenda, our manufacturing agenda. We know what that means for building middle-class lives. More to the issue, the Senate previously confirmed Ms. Pryor to be a Board member of Ex-Im in July 2019, 77 to 19. More recently, she was advanced out of the Banking and Housing Committee, which I chair, by a voice vote—12 Republicans, 12 Democrats—a voice vote. There was no objection, no dis-sension. The Chamber of Commerce—not always an ally of the Biden administration—the Chamber of Commerce supports Ms. Pryor. She worked with former president Kimberly Reed, a Republican appointee; and current member Spencer Bachus, a former Republican Congressman, to reopen Ex-Im to full operations.

My interest in her is a national interest. My interest is also that she is a native Ohioan. She hails from Richmond Heights, a Cleveland suburb, with 25 years of international business, finance, and public policy experience.

Don't be misled by attacks on Ex-Im's creation of a new financing facility for U.S. exporters. They already have a quorum. She is not essential for that quorum. She is essential because she is so darn good in her job. Ex-Im President Reta Jo Lewis is doing exactly what Congress—a majority of Congress, not unanimous, but a majority of Congress—told the Bank to do when we reauthorized this charter in 2019: Help American exporters compete with China.

Our economy—this is almost hard to believe—I mean, it is hard to believe—for the first time in 20 years, our economy is growing faster than China's economy. That is because we are finally stepping up with a real manufacturing policy. We are not asking Congress to waive any rules. The Bank is required to show that its financing does not crowd out financing from the private sector. It is essential that our manufacturers have every tool at their disposal so they can compete globally. That is why we need Judith Pryor at Ex-Im. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Ms. Pryor's nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

The yeas and nays have been previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Bennet	Durbin	Leahy
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Lujan
Booker	Gillibrand	Manchin
Brown	Hassan	Markey
Cantwell	Heinrich	Menendez
Cardin	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Carper	Hirono	Murphy
Casey	Kaine	Murray
Coons	Kelly	Ossoff
Cortez Masto	King	Padilla

Peters
Reed
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer

Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen

Warner
Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—50

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst
Fischer

Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell
Moran
Murkowski
Paul

Portman
Risch
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the motion is agreed to.

The nomination is discharged and will be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Washington.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the cloture vote on the Pryor nomination, the Senate recess until 4:30 p.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the Pryor nomination, the vote on confirmation occur at 4:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. For the information of the Senate, two rollcall votes are expected to occur at 4:30 p.m. Those votes will be on the confirmation of the Pryor nomination and cloture on the Contreras nomination. Additional rollcall votes are expected later this evening.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 672, Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 69, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Risch
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Rounds
Boozman	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Capito	Klobuchar	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Thune
Cotton	Moran	Tillis
Cramer	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wicker
Graham	Portman	Wyden

NAYS—31

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Toomey
Daines	Lee	Tuberville
Ernst	Lummis	Young
Fischer	Marshall	
Grassley	McConnell	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 69, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until 4:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:13 p.m. recessed until 4:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HICKENLOOPER).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON PRYOR NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pryor nomination?

Ms. WARREN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Risch
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Rounds
Boozman	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Scott (FL)
Capito	Klobuchar	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Thune
Cotton	Moran	Tillis
Cramer	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wicker
Graham	Portman	Wyden

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Grassley	Marshall
Blackburn	Hagerty	McConnell
Braun	Hawley	Paul
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cruz	Kennedy	Sullivan
Daines	Lankford	Toomey
Ernst	Lee	Tuberville
Fischer	Lummis	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 764, January Contreras, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of January Contreras, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Sup-

port, Department of Health and Human Services, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Graham	Padilla
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Burr	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Ernst	Moran	Tuberville
Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Grassley	Portman	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Lujan

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of January Contreras, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, earlier this week, I gave some examples of how the media is covering for Judge Jackson's lackluster performance in her Supreme Court confirmation hearing. I am not sure who they think they will persuade with these unhinged attacks, but what I do know is that the subtext has come through loud and clear for Tennesseans. It is: Sit down, shut up, stop questioning authority; and if you don't, we are going to come and get you.

That is what these headlines are basically saying.

Last night, I hosted a telephone townhall with more than 30,000 people

across middle and east Tennessee, and they have rejected the message that they are seeing in these headlines. It is really pretty simple for them. The harder the media pushes and tries to shut them up, the more they are pushing for accountability, especially when it comes to protecting the future for their children and their grandchildren.

As I am sure many people will recall, during a line of questioning in Judge Jackson's confirmation hearing, I asked her a very simple question. All I wanted her to do was define the word "woman." She told me she couldn't answer the question because she wasn't a biologist. If we had not been in the middle of a committee hearing, I would have thought that this was a joke. But we were in the middle of this committee hearing, and it wasn't. It was a very deliberate signal to a very specific group of individuals.

Of course, our friends in the media sensed this was going to backfire, as it did, so they flew into damage control mode. But I think it is safe to say they overplayed their hand on this one. According to this particular outlet, science says there is no simple answer to what a woman is. Don't question the science. That sounds familiar, doesn't it? We have heard that a lot lately. They went to great lengths to refute a simple fact that every single American learned in their grade school science class. Judge Jackson's answer and the media's panicked defense of it were both completely divorced from reality.

I have spoken at length about how Judge Jackson's total lack of a judicial philosophy causes these kinds of problems. But my Democratic colleagues and their activist friends still seem to be under the impression it is unreasonable to ask a Supreme Court nominee about her approach to interpreting the law. This makes no sense. Without that philosophy—without that basic standard—you cannot achieve stability or predictability, which are two things Judge Jackson repeatedly told us are important for a functioning judicial system.

I have serious questions about the nominee's refusal to engage us on this question. But what worries me more is her refusal to acknowledge that when it comes to law, not everything can or should be up for debate because political activists demand it. Our legal system is built on a foundation of definitions and rules, which are two equally important components.

In this case, if we concede that the definition of "woman" is too controversial to nail down, how can we demand equal justice under the law for victims of sex discrimination? Furthermore, how could the Supreme Court determine standing for any case regarding a gender-based rule? To take it even further, if words no longer matter, are the definitions of other protected classes up for debate? If so, which ones? And if not, then why not? Whose standard are we using here? Think about that.

I hear from Tennesseans every single day who feel like they are fighting a losing battle against the erosion of our basic values. Their government is drowning in debt. The crime rate has gone from bad to absolutely terrifying. And classrooms have become battlegrounds in the culture war between woke bureaucrats and parents who just want to rear their children as they see fit.

Slowly but surely, activists are forcing themselves between parents and their children, stripping words and institutions of their meaning and using their power to eliminate dissent. It is no way to run a classroom, and it is no way to run a country either. But right now, these parents I am talking to are looking at Washington and seeing the left use these same tactics to convince whoever gives credence to these unhinged headlines that reality is somehow up for debate.

They are not going to tolerate it anymore, not from Congress, not from the White House, and certainly not from the Supreme Court.

I think it bears repeating that the purpose of the Supreme Court is to interpret the law, not to take up arms in a culture war. I cannot in good conscience give my endorsement to a Supreme Court nominee whose first instinct was to chip away at the very foundation of the law rather than challenge the expectations of radical political activists.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we are at a critical point in our battle against COVID-19. While we are still losing Americans to the virus, we have reached a stage where most of us are able to resume many of the daily activities we used to regard as normal. But our sustained effort to improve health outcomes and keep our economy on track is running out of funding. Now is the time to act.

Over the last 2 years, our communities have taken necessary mitigation measures. Healthcare and frontline workers have given everything they have to care for our loved ones. The Biden administration, with funding provided through the American Rescue Plan, has worked hard to ensure we had the resources necessary to continue to adapt our response to COVID-19.

After the peak of the Omicron variant, the reduced COVID-19 transmissions has made it safer to reconnect with friends and family and resume some of the activities we have all missed during the past 2 years. Due to the tireless work of the Biden administration, testing capacity and therapeutics are more available than they have been at any time during the pandemic. Over 81 percent of Americans who are 5 years or older have had at least one COVID-19 vaccination, and nearly 50 percent of Americans who are eligible are fully vaccinated and have

had a booster. In Maryland, 91 percent of Marylanders 5 and older have had at least one COVID-19 vaccination shot.

Overall, we have made significant strides in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, but the threat is not over. Many Americans have children who are too young to be vaccinated and are immunocompromised or otherwise at high risk, so they may not be able to resume normal activities. While positivity rates and hospitalizations are decreasing, almost 700 Americans still are dying, on average, each day.

Additionally, new variants continue to emerge. Countries across Europe and Asia have seen new spikes in cases due to a more contagious version of Omicron known as BA.2. We could soon see a renewed surge as we are oftentimes only weeks behind rising cases in Europe. This latest subvariant already makes up 35 percent of the cases here in the United States.

Fortunately, at this stage, BA.2 appears no more severe than the original Omicron variant. In the United Kingdom, however, as BA.2 increased, children 2 to 11 years old had the highest rate of infections of any group in the country, the younger children.

To respond rapidly to emerging variants, we must keep financing pandemic prevention and response needs. The White House and the Department of Health and Human Services have made it clear that at least \$22.5 billion of additional funding is necessary to replenish pandemic prevention programs that are nearing completion or have already been depleted. Without these funds, we will have to cut back on critical aspects of the pandemic response.

Here are some examples. Our national testing capacity will decline, leaving us vulnerable and less able to detect emerging variants. It will become harder to diagnose infections early enough to take effective treatments. Also, uninsured individuals may no longer be able to access vaccines, tests, and treatments for free. This will cut off a critical support for uninsured individuals and health providers who care for them if they become ill with COVID-19.

In addition to testing and acute care, vital COVID-19 research will suffer if we do not provide sufficient funding. Continued development of new medications and vaccines is critical, but without additional funding, research will stop, leaving us potentially vulnerable to a variant resistant to our current arsenal. Specifically, the National Institutes of Health may shut down some of its COVID-19 research.

Further, the Food and Drug Administration recently granted an emergency use authorization for a new monoclonal antibody treatment that is effective against the Omicron variant. Without additional funding, however, the Federal Government won't be able to continue ordering the monoclonal antibody treatments, vital therapies for immunocompromised patients, and

antiviral pills, all of which are already in short supply.

Additional funding is critically important if we want to see the United States continue its leadership role in distributing vaccinations across the world to prevent more and worse variants from taking off and arriving on our shores.

I will continue to fight to ensure that we get additional COVID-19 funding. The American Rescue Plan Act demonstrated our ability to pass legislation that quickly ramped up pandemic response efforts and effectively mitigated the negative economic impact of the pandemic. This legislation has been critical in helping individuals and communities respond to the challenges brought on by the pandemic. Local governments have had to provide essential services at an unprecedented level, and they have risen to the occasion without falling into financial ruin. Now is not the time to take the foot off the gas.

Restaurants, for example, still need help. The American Rescue Plan created the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, but the \$28.6 billion provided to the program was not enough to meet demand. I remain gravely disappointed that the fiscal year 2022 omnibus spending package Congress passed earlier this month did not include additional assistance for restaurants and other hard-hit small businesses. For the last 2 years of the pandemic, nearly all restaurants have been under great strain as they have struggled to keep staff and adapt to the new variants, while facing increased pricing due to supply chain disruptions and inflation. And those have been the restaurants fortunate enough to survive the pandemic. Thousands have closed their doors for good.

More than 100,000 restaurants received grants from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund that have helped them keep their doors open, but more than 180,000 restaurants that submitted their applications on time to receive funds—their applications were there—have received no funds at all. That is not fair, and they desperately need our help.

If Congress had not acted quickly to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program when it ran out of money weeks after it opened in April 2020—and we did that, by the way, with strong, almost unanimous support, and it was hundreds of billions of dollars that we were short—the program would have been a half-measure, necessary but not sufficient. Instead, we extended the emergency aid needed to meet the crisis we faced, and that is exactly what we need to do again with the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

For the past 2 years plus, I have worked hard to secure vital resources to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that those who are struggling from the economic effects or emotional toll have the necessary support going forward. I will continue that fight.

The novel virus continues to challenge our Nation and the world, so we must be prepared. I urge the Senate to pass necessary additional funding for COVID-19 relief so Americans can continue to face this challenge head-on and prevail.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE A. SCOTT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this evening, I want to take just a few moments to recognize Pittsburg State University President Steve Scott. His long tenure at PSU—over three decades in total—has shepherded the university through various challenges and a period of growth.

Since taking the helm as president in 2009, he has led through a recession, enrollment and recruitment challenges in a global pandemic.

Early on during the pandemic, as our world was shutting down, I hosted a Crawford County virtual check-in with area leaders. President Scott was on that Zoom call. It was one of the many Zoom calls we have made over the last several years. During that conversation, President Scott said that there were three things to do when leading during difficult times: One, tell the truth; two, give people hope; and three, tell people how they can help. That advice has stuck with me and has helped guide my work and my conversations with Kansans ever since, and it is good advice that we can follow yet today.

But President Scott's legacy is not only marked by challenges. Pittsburg State has seen tremendous growth and opportunity over the past decades: the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, Block22, the expansion of the Overman Student Center, the Plaster Center, and many other positive developments.

These encouraging things highlight his emphasis on being a good community partner and his success in further integrating the university with the city of Pittsburg, Crawford County, and the region.

If you have ever been to Pittsburg on game day to cheer on the Gorilla's football team, it is clear how well the university pulls the community together.

I have always enjoyed walking through Gorilla Village with President Scott to visit with students and community members—with "Welcome to the Jungle," of course, playing in the background.

It is during these events that it is clear how well he relates to students, how much he cares for them and enjoys hearing their goals and their dreams or, for graduates, what they have accomplished since leaving campus.

I am of the view that we change the world one soul, one student, one person

at a time. Education is one of the most impactful ways we can do that, and I appreciate President Scott's dedication to serving students for the past 30 years.

I also appreciate how closely he has worked with me and my staff to advocate for Kansas higher education and identify ways the Federal Government can invest in the campus to move both Kansans and Kansas forward.

President Steve Scott will be celebrated this Friday in Pittsburg and step down from his position as president in June, but before he does so, I want him to know how grateful I am and Kansans are for his service.

He is a public servant through and through, and I look forward to seeing what he does next. Whatever it may be, I wish him and Cathy the very best.

President Scott, thank you for your friendship. Thank you for making a difference in so many lives. We are grateful for what you have done at Pittsburg State University. Best to you and your family.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. PORTMAN. I am here on the floor today to talk about border security, an issue that is intertwined with our national security and, certainly, with the drug epidemic that we see in our communities around the country. We are in the middle right now of the worst border crisis in the history of our country.

This chart tells the story.

Monthly border crossings are at an unprecedented level. Customs and Border Protection reports that there were 164,973 encounters at the border in February. By the way, that is equal to the population of Dayton, OH. Actually, it is far greater than the population of Dayton, OH.

So we have never had this kind of illegal migration into the country—this many people being apprehended. They told us last week that they are seeing over 7,000 migrants per day in this month, in March, and this is while something called title 42 is in effect.

What is title 42?

Well, despite these really big numbers you see here in terms of the number of people being apprehended at the border, under what is called title 42, which is a public health authority—it has nothing to do with immigration, really. It is about public health, and it is in place because of COVID-19. It allows the Customs and Border Protection folks to say: Sorry, you can't come into the United States for public health reasons. And, therefore, they can be turned away.

So that order is in place right now. Here is how that has worked. If you look at this chart, you will see the people who have been turned away because of title 42, in orange. Those are the numbers in orange. Those who have been allowed to come into the country are in blue.

You will see here, at the end of the last administration, in the Trump years, when we had for the most part a secure border, we had very few illegal entries. We had about 75 percent of the people who were coming in who were turned away by title 42.

In this administration, it is closer to about 50 percent. About 50 percent of the people are being turned away by title 42.

Why is this important? Well, obviously, we are making progress on COVID. COVID-19, we all hope, is not going to be here forever. There may be another variant out there, but as we are relaxing mask mandates and telling people that they don't have a vaccination mandate anymore to be able to come to work or travel across our borders, we are hearing reports that the Biden administration may rescind title 42, so get rid of this authority within the next several weeks.

And do you know what? Unless we have a new variant, God forbid, that comes in and causes a new health crisis, they are probably right. Title 42 shouldn't be used in this way because it is a public health authority, not an immigration law. The problem is that if that happens—remember, we already have an unprecedented number of people coming into the country. Look at this chart. If that happens, then all these folks who are being turned away—the orange bars here—are going to be coming across the border also without title 42 in place to have them be turned away. This is why the Border Patrol tells me—and I know the Presiding Officer hears the same thing all the time—that they are already overwhelmed. But they say it will be out of control.

Now, some may argue it is already out of control. But it is going to get a whole lot worse. So they are worried on the border, and rightly so, that the current crisis is going to become far worse.

My two colleagues from Arizona, both Democrats, to my understanding, have just asked President Biden to keep title 42 in place. And I think that makes sense to keep it in place right now because we are not ready for a huge increase of migrants coming across the border. We can't handle the current wave. The information we received from the Department of Homeland Security is that they are planning for a massive increase of migrants when this happens.

I am the ranking Republican—the top Republican—on the Department of Homeland Security oversight committee, called the HSGAC Committee, or Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. We are talking to

the Department of Homeland Security, and they are preparing for a huge increase. But their plan seems to be more about more buses, more planes, and more tents to help expedite the flow of these migrants into the country rather than figuring out a way that an immigration system should work better to be able to say to people: Come legally. Come legally. Please don't come illegally—which is what these numbers represent.

By the way, I am for legal immigration. I think it has enriched our country. I think it is a very important part of the fabric in our Nation. It makes us special. We brought people in from all over the world, including, pretty much, all of our parents and grandparents and, certainly, great-grandparents. Anybody who is in the Chamber, unless you are Native American, you came here or your family came here as immigrants.

But legal immigration, while it should be encouraged, is not the same thing as what we are talking about here. We are talking about illegal entry, people who don't qualify under the legal system. And in all of these countries where people are coming from, others are waiting in line patiently under the legal immigration system.

So America, typically, is the most generous country in the world, year after year, in accepting legal immigrants. Sometimes, that changes based on the refugee flows, and we are seeing the refugee flows today in Poland, as an example. Poland is going to be the most generous country in the world, thanks to the brutal and murderous and cowardly attacks by Putin on that country. But America is a generous country in terms of immigrants, and we should be.

But with regard to legal immigration, we are not just a country of immigrants—that has enriched us—we are also a country of laws, right? So we have to have some laws in place to deal with this illegal immigration. And, of course, it is not just about people coming illegally. It is about all the other contraband that comes across the border, particularly illegal drugs.

So I believe we have to keep title 42 in place for now, but I also agree this is not a long-term solution to the crisis we have at the southern border. To use a healthcare authority to effectively take care of about half the illegal immigration coming across the border doesn't make sense.

By the way, when you see the difference here in the use of title 42, it is because, during the Trump years, they used title 42 for families and for single adults coming over; whereas, here, the Biden administration chose not to apply it to families for the most part. The vast majority of families do not get stopped because of title 42. It is just single adults, which is the vast majority of people coming across the border illegally. So that is the difference in terms of the percentage of use of title 42.

So we have a real problem on our hands. It is already overwhelming, and it is about to get a lot worse. What is the solution?

Well, the solution is to fix our immigration laws. The foundation underneath all this and the problem that has resulted in these numbers is because our immigration law doesn't work. It is broken, and everybody acknowledges that. I don't know a Member in this Chamber who wouldn't acknowledge, at least privately, that our immigration system is broken. How can you look at these numbers and not realize that?

And yet we haven't been able to find a bipartisan way forward. It is very frustrating. What we have to do is we have to look at the underlying laws and why they don't work.

Well, there is one reason, and it is by far the biggest reason. It may not be the only one. You can argue that we should put in more Border Patrol. We should do that. We should have more fencing. We should do that. But the biggest problem is our asylum policy in this country. The administration has implemented the asylum policy in a way that makes getting control of the border impossible.

Now, what is asylum? Well, it is something to help people who really need relief. And it should be used for that, for people who have a credible fear of persecution. So back in their home country, they are being persecuted. They come to America, and they apply for asylum. We have a tradition in America of accepting those people as we accept refugees. It is basically the same standard. But the problem is that people are coming into our country and claiming asylum, going through a long system, which we will talk about in a minute, not qualifying for asylum, and yet staying in our country. And this has caused a huge pull factor where people from all over the world are coming to America because they are told: Gosh, all you have to do is apply for asylum, and they will let you in, and it is unlikely that you will ever have to leave.

That is how the system works now. I mean, that is just the honest truth, and I think if you talk to anybody who is objective about this, they will admit it.

Now, some people think: We should not have the asylum policy act as our immigration policy. These people should just be allowed to come in.

There are some people who believe that. My belief is we ought to stick with the legal immigration system—again, the most generous in the world in most years—and say that, for asylum, let's limit it to people who actually qualify for asylum. Let's not let people misuse the system to gain entry into the United States.

By the way, the people who are misusing it are the smugglers because it is the smugglers who go to the family, let's say, in a country like Ecuador or Guatemala, and they say: Give me a bunch of money—like 10,000 bucks,

which is a lot of money for a poor family in one of these countries—and I will get your kids or you and your kids into the United States and get them in school, get you a job, because America has this crazy asylum policy where you can just do that.

And we will talk about how that works in a second, but that is a pull factor.

I recently went to Latin America and met with the Presidents of Mexico and Guatemala and Ecuador and Colombia. They all said the same thing, which is this: Please change your policies because it is a pull factor. You are taking some of our best and brightest people, and they all want to come to the American border and go across because they know this is how they can get into your country. You have a legal immigration system where people stay here and apply and go through the process. That is fine. But change your asylum policy.

Now, that may surprise some people. People may think: Well, the Presidents of those countries might like when people leave and send money back to their family.

But, no, they don't want to lose all these people, and that is what is happening. Look at these numbers. That is what is happening.

By the way, it is not just people who are from Central America and Mexico.

So here is an interesting chart that I asked my team to put together. These are encounters at the southwest border—so when somebody gets stopped, apprehended by the Border Patrol—of people who are not from either Mexico or the Northern Triangle.

So look at how this has increased. Back in 2018, there were very few people coming across the border illegally who weren't from Mexico or Central America, the so-called Northern Triangle countries. Look at what happens here. You have a huge increase of people coming over the border who are from other countries.

So I was told today that there were people coming over the border this year from 150 countries. You probably heard the stories of people from Ukraine, a country that is under siege by Russia. You can't blame the people for leaving that country. And I have been to Poland, on the border, recently, and I have seen the refugees there. But some of these refugees are actually coming to Mexico and then finding their way to the southern border and coming across the southern border, from Ukraine and also from Russia. And the Border Patrol has confirmed that for me.

So this has ticked up as this conflict continues. Why? Because they know the easiest way to get into America is to walk across the southern border and you claim asylum and you get in.

Now, we have just decided to bring 100,000 refugees in from Ukraine because of this crisis. So maybe that will be a way that more people can come. They don't have to come through the

southern border. But now, they know this is the easy way to come in. And look at these numbers.

So it is not just people, again, from Mexico and Central America. Now, it is people from all over the world. And for some of these people, the Border Patrol is nervous because they come from countries where there are a lot of people who want to do us harm. So people are coming in from countries in the Middle East, as an example. They are concerned and for good reason.

So what happens when you come to the border and you claim asylum?

So, after you tell the Border Patrol that you would like to claim asylum, you then are permitted to come into the country, assuming you meet a basic standard where you say the right things about having a credible fear of persecution, and you get in line for an asylum determination. So you come to Washington, DC, or my hometown of Cincinnati or Tucson, AZ—wherever it is—and your wait is between 4 and 6 years. Others say it is 4 to 8 years because of the appeals process, but let's say it is 4 to 6 years—so an average of 5 years that you are in the United States, waiting for your asylum request to be adjudicated.

What happens during that time period? Well, you are able to work. Your kids are able to go to school. You get embedded into the community, as you might imagine. Some people show up for their court cases; some people don't. They are in the community. They probably feel it is unlikely they will be deported. So it is not a system that works well to have that kind of a lag time.

By the way, there are 1.5 million people in this category—1.5 million people in this backlog. Does this make any sense?

Here is what is most unusual about this process, I will say: At the end of the process, when the asylum adjudication is made, do you know what happens? Most people are told: I am sorry. You don't qualify.

In fact, the latest information that we have from the Department of Homeland Security is that immigration judges granted asylum to roughly 2,400 migrants in fiscal year 2021. These, again, all originated with a credible fear claim, a credible fear of persecution in their home countries—2,400. That is just 14 percent of such cases completed. That would mean, in terms of these cases, these numbers we have here, that roughly 85 percent or 86 percent of the people who applied, who went through the process, were not granted asylum.

Now, I have heard different numbers here, but I have never heard somebody tell me a number that is close to 50 percent. So, the majority of people who go through this whole process wait 4 to 6 years and finally have their court cases heard. Again, in fiscal year 2021, it would appear it was 2,400 in removal. That would be just 14 percent of such cases completed. The vast majority don't meet our standard.

So who are these people? They are economic refugees. Who can blame them for wanting to come to the United States of America? If I lived in one of these countries and wanted to look out for my kids and my family, as we all do, I might do the same thing.

I don't agree with people who say: Oh, these folks are coming over here to use our welfare and to commit crimes. Some of them do—we know that—both of those things, but I think the vast majority of them come here—and I have talked to a lot of them, as has the Presiding Officer. If you go to the border, you meet these people. These are families who are poor and who are looking for a better life, a higher salary, better healthcare, a future for their kids, but they are not coming legally, and that is the issue. Economic refugees don't qualify as asylees. They don't meet the standard to come in under the asylum process. They have to come in under the legal immigration system.

Look, it is a complicated issue, but in some respects, it is really very simple, isn't it? We have a process here in our country now whereby, if you show up to the border and you claim asylum and you get in, there is a very good chance, although you will not have your claim adjudicated favorably, that you will end up being able to just stay in the United States.

There is discussion about how many people are actually deported once they are put into removal. In other words, if they are told they don't meet the standards and are put into removal, are they deported? Well, the priority of Homeland Security—and, again, we are the oversight committee for this—is people who have criminal records and people who are terrorists, who pose some threat to the country. That means, for the vast majority of the people, they are not going to be prioritized in terms of removal. There is also an opportunity to appeal. That is why some people say it is not 4 to 6 years but that it is 4 to 8 years. But let's say it is even 4 years. That is a long time to wait—1.5 million people.

Now, I am told that the administration is coming up with a new rule to help deal with this issue, and I was initially very encouraged when I heard about this.

What I have been asking for, for some time, is a system where we adjudicate these cases at the border as soon as people come across, yes or no. Let people know. If it is no, go back home, and apply legally. If it is yes, come on into the United States. You then are a legal immigrant. Eventually, you qualify for a green card, and eventually you qualify for citizenship because you are an asylee, like a refugee. But let's do that adjudication at the border when people come. That is what the law says. It says people should be detained until they are adjudicated, but it is not what we do.

I have been pushing for Congress to actually fund this effort—it is going to

be expensive—of places where people can be humanely detained during a short period of time while they actually go before an immigration official who can determine, yes, you are in or, no, you don't qualify, rather than waiting years and years, as we do now. Again, 1.5 million people are in limbo who are in the United States.

So I was sort of excited when I heard that the administration was coming up with a new rule for quicker decisions. I think that makes sense. However, I am learning more about this proposed rule. It appears to be another asylum appeal on top of an already backlogged asylum system. This is why I say that: It adds an asylum officer to the process—who is on the border—and when a person comes forward and says "I have a credible fear of persecution, and I want to claim asylum," this individual, who is not a judge but who is an asylum officer and is trained, is able to either approve or deny the case.

The problem is, if you approve the person, the person comes in and, again, eventually gets a green card and becomes a legal immigrant, but if the person is denied, apparently the individual then goes into the regular process and can immediately appeal to an immigration judge. It just adds another layer that can be appealed. So I am concerned about that.

Now, I am told that there will be an effort to speed up an immigration judge's decision under this process. So, if there is an officer at the border who makes the initial determination and if the initial determination is no, then the judge would have to act more quickly than the 4 to 6 years that are currently in place. So that would be an improvement. That would be an improvement if it could be faster, but I am not sure how that is going to happen because the reason it is 4 to 6 years is that there is a 1.5 million-person backlog.

My view would be, as people are coming in, they ought to be adjudicated quickly, yes or no. If it is yes, come on in. If it is no, go back home. That would send a message to the next group who is being told by these smugglers we talked about: You know, just pay me this money, and I will get you into America. Your kids can go to school, and you can go to work.

I fear that, unless we fix this system, it is going to give those human smugglers even more opportunities to encourage unlawful migration.

By the way, this comes at a time when the DHS recently reported to Congress that several million migrants in the Western Hemisphere are getting ready to start their journey to the United States. Why? Because they know title 42, which we talked about earlier, is going to disappear. It is in the orange here. So this is a time when, apparently, there are more people who are thinking about coming. We know as we have seen the caravans and so on. That is not something that we want to go through again. It is a pull

factor, as I said earlier. It is pulling people to the border. It is giving the coyotes, the traffickers, the smugglers the ability to make lots of money and to bring people, again, not just from Mexico and Central America but from all over the world.

By the way, the journey north is a dangerous one. I know everybody has heard about that and has seen that. We saw recently that there was a tractor-trailer full of migrants that crashed, and dozens of people were killed. We know about the sexual assaults of women, girls, boys. We know about the human trafficking that occurs in connection with this. We know about the cartels that are involved with this smuggling and how much they charge people.

By the way, just last year, there were 10,000 requests for Border Patrol help from people who were in distress because they were left in the desert to their own devices. They needed water or they needed food. They needed to be rescued. There have been over 10,000 cases wherein the Border Patrol has gone and rescued migrants who were left by these smugglers in the middle of the desert.

So this is not a system that we should hold up as a good system. This is a system that is broken and corrupt, and the people making money, again, are the cartels.

Drug cartels, by the way, are very involved in this. So it is about people, but it is also about drugs, and we all know this. They know when the Border Patrol agents are being taken offline to process people who are coming into the country, which leaves wide-open gaps for them to transport drugs into America. I saw it when I was down there last year.

I was down more recently also. What I saw was—we were out at night, and a group of migrants was coming, and the Border Patrol was going to that location to stop them and to question them. Meanwhile, the drug smugglers came across. We all heard it on the radio, and you could see it, but what could they do? They were distracted.

Fentanyl is the deadliest of the drugs. This is the synthetic opioid that is killing more people than is any other drug. About two-thirds of the people who die of overdoses in my home State of Ohio and probably in the Presiding Officer's State are dying from fentanyl or from a variant of fentanyl.

It used to come from China—through the mail, for the most part. We did a pretty good job of stopping that, including with legislation called the STOP Act, which I was proud to be a part of. Yet it is like Whac-A-Mole, wherein you stop it here, and it starts somewhere else, and now it is coming in from Mexico. A lot of the analogs and a lot of the precursors are coming from China, still, into Mexico. It is then being made into either a pill or into some other substance that comes into the United States.

I do a lot of work in this area in terms of the prevention and the treat-

ment and the longer term recovery, and I think that that is really the most important part—to stop the demand. But I have got to tell you that it is really hard right now for people who are interested in helping on the treatment side or in law enforcement back home because this stuff is flooding across the border. It means that the supply has gone up, and it means it is so cheap. Law enforcement in Ohio told me that it is cheaper than marijuana on the street—fentanyl—and that it is being pressed into pills that say things like “Xanax” or “Percocet.” Unfortunately, people are taking those pills, not knowing it has fentanyl, and some are dying of overdoses immediately.

Last year in Ohio, we had, unfortunately, a record level of overdose deaths again. In America, the same was true—100,000 people died of overdoses from these drugs. Again, probably 60 percent—two-thirds—in Ohio were dying of fentanyl.

Last year, we had a 40-percent increase in fentanyl coming over the southern border, which is based on apprehensions. By the way, Border Patrol will tell you, when you go and talk to them, that they are not stopping a lot of it because they don't have the ability; they don't have the resources. But it is a true crisis—four times as much as in 2019. According to the CDC, fentanyl and these other synthetic opioids are the biggest dangers.

A few months ago, I was in Nogales, which is south of Tucson, where the Presiding Officer lives. I was there to ride with the Border Patrol and to go to the port of entry and meet with the Border Patrol and customs officials. They are doing an awesome job with what they have—a 24/7 job—to try to protect our Nation from these narcotics and these bad actors, who come from around the world now and try to enter through this vulnerable southern border, and just to deal with the migrant flow that we talked about. It was pretty alarming. They need better equipment. They need help. They need more resources. They need better technology to be able to scan the cars and trucks that are coming in, particularly for the drugs we talked about.

Fentanyl, by the way—a relatively small package—can kill thousands of people, so you can hide this stuff in a car or in a truck much more easily.

Some of the ports of entry have more technology than others, but here is the average: Less than 2 percent of the passenger vehicles and less than 20 percent of the commercial vehicles coming into the United States are scanned for illegal drugs, like fentanyl. Those are the numbers. It is unacceptable. A smuggler with multiple pounds of fentanyl concealed in a hidden compartment, who is going to make hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars on that, has a very good chance of getting across the border without a search. It is not a gap in our security; it is a gaping hole, and it helps lead to this flood of cheap fentanyl and other dangerous

drugs. Last year, Customs and Border Protection seized nearly 10,000 pounds of deadly fentanyl—again, a 40-percent increase from 2020.

We also face challenges between the ports of entry. In Nogales, the Border Patrol Agent in Charge I rode with showed me huge gaps in the fencing and described an overwhelming, record-breaking number of unlawful migrants and drugs coming into the United States and of the urgent need, as he told me, for more agents, more trucks, and more technology, including cameras and sensors. These gaps and broken areas of fencing that need repairs, it is just inexcusable. We should fix them.

By the way, the smugglers know where these gaps are. The human smugglers know well. The gap I saw, there were all kinds of bottles and old backpacks and stuff where people had discarded things as they come across the border. And you could see the trails. You could see the tracks where people had come across because they know where the breaks are in the fencing. So this is a system that is broken.

The difference between what was happening here at the end of the last administration and this system is there were changes in policy that were put in place right away. One widely reported one was the one to stop the installation of the fencing on day one via Executive order.

By the way, fencing alone is not enough. You have to have technology that goes with it. But, unfortunately, they stopped the technology too.

I was in El Paso probably a year and a half ago, and they showed me the gaps in the wall, and maybe 80 percent of the fencing was done; and then 20 percent was openings where, unfortunately, 24/7, the Border Patrol had to be there or else people would just come across. So it wasn't slowing anybody down.

But I focused on the technology because you want the sensors and the cameras and all that. The fence itself is not as effective. In fact, it is not very effective at all if it doesn't have the technology.

They said 90 percent of the technology had yet to be installed because of that decision on day one of the Executive order because it stopped all the technology, too.

And I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and I talk about this a lot. They are for the technology because they understand this is an issue. But somehow, I don't know, this issue just is one where there is a disconnect between the clearly broken system and what we were able to get together and do on a bipartisan basis.

Since the President's inauguration, the southern border has faced the worst unlawful migration crisis we have had. The men and women of the Border Patrol—Customs and Border Protection—I have met over the years are doing the best they can. We need to help them more. They have got really difficult jobs right now.

For the Border Patrol, I am working on bipartisan legislation to increase the number of agents, address retention challenges of the existing workforce—they are losing people—and let them respond faster to humanitarian crises, including having a Border Patrol reserve they can call on where people are qualified and ready to help.

The ongoing crisis at our southern border is clear, and it is persistent. It is not seasonal anymore, if you look at these numbers.

Again, we welcome legal immigrants. We always should. They enrich our country. But we are both a nation of laws and immigrants.

I urge the Biden administration to change course, to fix this broken system, to fix and reform this asylum process that acts as a pool factor to America, to stop these policies that send a green light to the human smugglers and the drug traffickers that leads to so much human suffering and a border that is not secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF JANUARY CONTRERAS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on an important nomination to the Department of Health and Human Services. January Contreras is President Biden's choice to serve as Assistant Secretary for children and families.

The Senate Finance Committee is taking a special interest in kids, families, and fresh approaches to strengthen opportunities for them and for America's future.

Now, people have been a little bit surprised that the Finance Committee is taking this big interest because, normally, they think that the Finance Committee deals primarily with big money issues. Taxes and trade would be two examples.

Those are certainly very, very important, and we spend plenty of time working on those. But the committee also feels very strongly that we can't afford to write off the hopes and dreams of our future, which are our kids and our families. We can't afford, as a country, to lose these young minds and these young families, to take away the kinds of opportunities they could have with just a few well-targeted, sensible investments in their future. And when January Contreras is confirmed, that is exactly the kind of work that she is going to be doing: caring for some of the most vulnerable young people in our Nation, those young people who are in the child welfare system.

One of the big challenges in the last few years of the Administration for Children and Families has been the implementation of our bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act. This was an extraordinarily important law, particularly for kids who are in foster care.

We had, until this law came along, essentially two choices for these kids.

We could send them off to a foster home. Some of them might be good; some of them we know aren't so good. Or we could leave them in a family situation at home that wasn't too desirable. You might have a parent who had been caught up in drugs or alcohol or something else.

What the Finance Committee did in enacting the Family First Prevention Services Act is it said: We have got these two choices over here, neither of them are ideal. What we will do is create a third path, which is the Family First Prevention Services Act.

So, for example, for a family in Arizona—the Presiding Officer's home State—that family would be in a position to stay together but also to receive some of the services—the anti-drug services, the efforts to get people off alcohol and addiction—and keep the family together. Very often, a grandparent would help out.

Family First is, in my view, the future of much of our domestic policy in this country because it means we aren't going to write off our kids and families caught up in the child welfare system.

The bill was bipartisan. Chairman Hatch was then the chairman. I was the ranking member. I think this bill is a once-in-a-generation overhaul of how child welfare works in America.

As I described to the Presiding Officer, before Family First, families, in effect in Arizona and elsewhere, were broken apart by default. In other words, you had the two choices, neither of them very good. Family First—put together on a bipartisan basis in the Finance Committee—recognized that young people grow up better at home, and families have an incredible capacity to deal with the proper support. So we signed Family First to help families stay together whenever it is safe and possible.

As I mentioned, maybe the parent needs a little help with substance abuse or mental health treatment; getting clean will make the home safe and the community often safer.

And, as I have mentioned, I was particularly thrilled that we could look to grandparents once again to step in as a caretaker for their grandkids, because when I was a young member of the other body, I wrote the Kinship Care bill, which was something that really came out of America's churches, where grandparents could step in and provide a compassionate role model and caretaker for the grandkids. The new approach builds that smart flexibility into the system so the kids and families could get the support they need.

In my view, it is especially important right now to help address mental health. The Finance Committee had a hearing today on that. Senator CRAPO and I have vowed to have a bipartisan bill on that. And it is particularly important to have Family First right now because it allows us to address mental health and substance abuse and strengthen families at the same time. This is what families are all about.

Now, implementing the law takes a lot of close collaboration between the Federal Government and the States. It has not been easy. The previous administration made it pretty challenging. But because this is a bipartisan priority for the Finance Committee, we just pushed ahead. And I am especially looking forward to working with Ms. Contreras on that task.

Ms. Contreras and I have some work experience that might be of interest to the Presiding Officer. Ms. Contreras led the Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services, a legal aid organization for children and young adults who have experienced abuse, neglect, family separation, homelessness, and human trafficking.

Before my time in the Congress, I ran the Oregon legal services for the elderly program, a legal aid program specially for seniors. And then the rest of the time I was codirector of the Oregon Gray Panthers helping, again, families and seniors and others. Back then, seniors were constantly getting clobbered by insurance scams and bill collectors, and somebody needed to be there for them. So Ms. Contreras is very, very qualified for this job—qualified to steer Family First into a period of exceptional progress because States are really hungry for this option, the option that makes a big difference because it ensures that we are not writing off our families; we are not giving up on them.

That is something that I think is particularly important to hear from our Finance Committee members because everybody thinks that the committee just focuses on all these things with Big Money, but we are especially interested in seeing nominees like Ms. Contreras come forward.

I think she will do a terrific job as the head of the Administration for Children and Families. She is going to do a terrific job of moving Family First ahead. She had bipartisan support in the Senate Finance Committee.

I urge all Members of the Senate to vote for January Contreras when she comes up later this evening.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON CONTRERAS NOMINATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Contreras nomination?

Mr. JOHNSON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Graham	Ossoff
Bennet	Hassan	Padilla
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Burr	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young
Grassley	Portman	

NOT VOTING—2

Toomey
Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

NOMINATION OF DAVID WEIL

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, right now, we are in the midst of a strong economic recovery and record job growth.

But despite the progress we have made, the fact remains that during this pandemic, corporations and rich CEOs made huge profits, while workers still struggle to make ends meet and put food on the table.

If we want to build back an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the very top, then we need be taking action to lower costs, like Democrats have been pushing for, and we need leaders at the Department of Labor who are committed to ensuring workers get every cent of the paychecks they earn and holding corporations accountable when they try to take advantage of workers and commit wage theft.

Dr. David Weil has a long history as a champion for workers, and I come to the floor today to make clear: He is the exact right person to lead the Wage and Hour Division of the DOL.

Dr. Weil is an exceptional choice for this role with just the right experience for the job; in fact, he has already served in this position under the Obama administration. During his past tenure, he proved himself a capable leader, with a steadfast commitment to a simple goal: ensuring workers across the country are paid the wages they earn.

It was under his leadership that the Wage and Hour Division boosted its efforts to enforce the critical set of laws that protect workers against employers undercutting the minimum wage, failing to pay overtime, forcing workers to work "off the clock," and so much more.

These are protections that workers depend on, especially workers who earn low wages, women, and people of color who most often face wage theft.

So we have got to make sure corporations are following them—and that is exactly what David Weil did. He cracked down on corporations who violated the law and denied workers the pay they were owed, and at one point, the division even uncovered an investigation into garment factories that secured \$1.3 million in back pay for cheated workers.

While leading the Agency, he also worked to expand overtime pay for 12 million more workers, close loopholes to help stop employers from misclassifying workers in order to pay them less, and crack down on Federal contractors who weren't following the law and paying fair wages. It has been frustrating to see the previous administration undermine these efforts and reverse this progress, but confirming David Weil to return to the Wage and Hour Division is an important step to put workers first and get us back on the right track. A vote for Dr. Weil is a vote to put wages back in workers' pockets and a vote to hold corporations accountable for wage theft.

So I urge all my colleagues to join me today in sending Dr. Weil back to the DOL.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 667, David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Chris Van Hollen, Raphael G. Warnock, Jacky Rosen, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie Hirono, Christopher A. Coons.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—53

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sinema
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young
Graham	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 53.

The motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now vote on the motions to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 718, 717, and 716; that the remaining votes tonight be 10-minute votes; that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, all post-cloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader or his designee following consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Members, we have three more votes coming up. If we stay in our seats and stay close, we can get them done quickly. So, please, hang around.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 718, Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2025.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2025, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tester
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Hassan	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hagerty	Rounds
Braun	Hoehn	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Hawley Shelby

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2025.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 717, Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2028.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2028, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Cassidy	Daines
Blackburn	Collins	Ernst
Blunt	Cornyn	Fischer
Boozman	Cotton	Graham
Braun	Cramer	Grassley
Burr	Crapo	Hagerty
Capito	Cruz	Hoehn

Hyde-Smith	Moran	Scott (FL)
Inhofe	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
Johnson	Paul	Sullivan
Kennedy	Portman	Thune
Lankford	Risch	Tillis
Lee	Romney	Toomey
Lummis	Rounds	Tuberville
Marshall	Rubio	Wicker
McConnell	Sasse	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Hawley Shelby

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2028.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 716, Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Charles E. Schumer, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Chis Van Hollen, Raphael G. Warnock, Jacky Rosen, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie Hirono, Gary C. Peters, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Blumenthal	Brown
Bennet	Booker	Cantwell

Cardin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Carper	Leahy	Schumer
Casey	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Manchin	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Menendez	Stabenow
Durbin	Merkley	Tester
Gillibrand	Murphy	Van Hollen
Hassan	Murray	Warner
Heinrich	Ossoff	Warnock
Hickenlooper	Padilla	Warren
Hirono	Peters	Whitehouse
Kaine	Reed	Wyden
Kelly	Rosen	
King	Sanders	

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Hawley	Shelby
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Georgia.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, in just a moment—in just a moment—I am going to ask that the Senate do something that we should have done months ago.

In just a moment, I am going to ask that this body confirm Deborah Lipstadt to serve as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism on behalf of the United States.

My great-grandparents, Israel and Annie, arrived in this country in 1911 and 1913, fleeing anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe. Their story is like the story of so many Jewish immigrants and refugees who came to the United States because the free exercise of religion is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. And when I stood just there and was sworn into the U.S. Senate, I held in my breast pocket copies of the ships' manifests logging their arrivals at Ellis Island.

We had a confirmation hearing for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson in the Judiciary Committee last week, and I had a discussion with Judge Jackson about what that means, the free exercise of religion.

This country has drawn immigrants and refugees from around the world be-

cause it is a place where you are protected from persecution, no matter how you worship. That is what America stands for.

It is time for the Senate, at long last, to confirm this nominee to fight anti-Semitism around the world on behalf of the United States, standing up for those values.

It was U.S. forces who liberated Dachau and Buchenwald. And Annie and Israel, my great-grandparents, they got out of Europe. Many of my family did not, and they perished in the Holocaust.

This isn't ancient history. This is recent history. And, right now, as we speak, the scourge of anti-Semitism is rising again in this country and around the world.

If we mean the words "never again," then, at long last, let's confirm Deborah Lipstadt to fight anti-Semitism on behalf of the United States.

Deborah Lipstadt comes from my home State of Georgia. She is the professor of modern Jewish history and Holocaust studies at Emory University—a leading scholar of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

It is time for the United States to stand up against anti-Semitism. It is time, finally, for the Senate to confirm this nominee.

So at this time, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 845, Deborah E. Lipstadt, of Georgia, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador (New Position); that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Deborah E. Lipstadt, of Georgia, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador (New Position).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lipstadt nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Jerry Kang, President Biden's nominee to serve on the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

As you know, the foundation serves sectors of our economy that continue to face tremendous need and uncertainty in the wake of the pandemic.

During this trying time, it is critically important that we confirm qualified individuals who are eager to serve and support.

This nomination has been reviewed by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on a bipartisan basis, and we are waiting on the Senate to confirm him so he can get to work.

It is past time that we confirm qualified nominees so that the Federal Government has a team in place—the team that it needs to operate and support our constituents.

As an ex-officio member of the National Council on the Arts, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 729, Jerry Kang, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I guess this is a crazy idea, but I believe that Americans should not be judged by the color of their skin but, rather, by the content of their character. I believe that every person is made in the image of God, and that to judge a person simply based on the color of their skin is wrong.

Unfortunately, across the country, politicians and universities are trying to divide people by race, skin color, ethnicity, or country of origin. It is immoral and a corrosive habit of the woke crowd.

Unfortunately, the professional career of this nominee is entirely wrapped up in promoting critical race theory and dividing people along color lines. His focus at the university where he works is to teach kids about how to divide one another into what Karl Marx referred to as the oppressed and the oppressors.

I am sick of this disgusting ideology, and Americans are sick of it too. Just look at all the Americans who are rejecting it through local elections and protests at school boards.

We shouldn't be elevating people who divide Americans. We should be working with those who want to unite us around our founding principles that made our Nation the greatest country on Earth.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, not only did Jerry Kang get recommended by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on a bipartisan basis, but he is a scholar and has a very important reputation.

Half of his work deals with communication and the internet on matters such as privacy and pervasive computing and virtual communities. The other half, by his own description, deals with civil rights and race. And he is probably best known for his works on implicit bias.

These are critical topics, and we should be eager to have somebody of Professor Kang's caliber and commitment on the Foundation on the Arts and Humanities, and so I am certainly disappointed to hear the objection from the Republican side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: Nos. 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, and 841, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Paul J. Schlise

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Maria B. Barrett

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Tickner

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades as indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Tina B. Boyd

Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Edwards, II

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Jurasek

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephen P. Case

Col. Richard W. Corner, II

Col. Kent J. Lightner

Col. Todd W. Traver

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Jeffrey J. Kilian

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Carey H. Cash

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. George E. Bresnihan

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Matthew Case

Capt. Guido F. Valdes

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Tracy L. Hines

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Ryan M. Perry

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. John E. Dougherty, IV

Capt. Keith A. Hash

Capt. Jonathan E. Rucker

Capt. Douglas L. Williams

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Douglas F. Stitt

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Margaret H. Blais

Col. Bruce A. Cowan

Col. Brian C. Elbert

Col. Gregory Krane

Col. Charles W. Nichols, Jr.

Col. Mathew C. Wenhe

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Michael L. Baker

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Chaplains of the Navy and appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Navy while serving in that position under title 10, U.S.C., section 8082:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Gregory N. Todd

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Jeffrey T. Anderson

Rear Adm. (lh) Anthony C. Carullo

Rear Adm. (lh) Richard J. Cheeseman, Jr.

Rear Adm. (lh) Craig A. Clapperton

Rear Adm. (lh) Christopher M. Engdahl

Rear Adm. (lh) Robert M. Gaucher

Rear Adm. (lh) Carl A. Lahti

Rear Adm. (lh) John V. Menoni

Rear Adm. (lh) William P. Pennington

Rear Adm. (lh) Curt A. Renshaw

Rear Adm. (lh) Scott F. Robertson

Rear Adm. (lh) Milton J. Sands, III

Rear Adm. (lh) Christopher J. Sweeney

Rear Adm. (lh) Douglas C. Verissimo

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) John S. Lemmon

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Nicholas M. Homan

Rear Adm. (lh) Michael J. Vernazza

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Thomas J. Moreau

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. James J. Mingus

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephen R. Smith

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Luke A. Frost

Capt. Mark B. Sucato

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1737 AIR FORCE nominations (57) beginning CHRISTOPHER L. ALLAM, and ending CURTIS J. WOZNAK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1770 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JUSTIN L. JOFFRION, and ending BETH L. MAKROS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2022.

PN1786 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning NEALY P. BROWN, and ending RICHARD ALTON STEEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1787 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning GEORGE A. GONZALEZ, and ending CLAYTON L. RICKS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1788 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning REBECCA A. BURBRIDGE, and ending BRIAN A. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1789 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning DARREN STEELE BEASLEY, and ending JEFFREY M. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1790 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning TRAVIS W. GERLACH, and ending BENJAMIN G. ROMICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1791 AIR FORCE nominations (10) beginning JENNIFER J. ANDERSON, and ending ALEXIS K. STUCKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1792 AIR FORCE nominations (7) beginning MICHAEL M. AFLAGUE, and ending JAMES B. MCMANUS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1793 AIR FORCE nominations (8) beginning JARED ROBERT BRANDT, and ending SARAH R. SPETH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1794 AIR FORCE nominations (66) beginning ANTHONY S. ALEXANDER, and ending CHRISTOPHER P. ZORICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1795 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning HEATHER D. HARRIS, and ending TIMOTHY DANIEL RAY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1796 AIR FORCE nominations (30) beginning CYNTHIA L. ALVARADO, and ending SHELLEY J. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1797 AIR FORCE nominations (47) beginning THOMAS F. ALBRECHT, and ending WILLIAM STANLEY YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1798 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning TRICIA L. HILL, and ending DONALD T. YAP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1853 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher D. Corliss, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2022.

IN THE ARMY

PN836 ARMY nomination of James M. Blake, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 13, 2021.

PN1215 ARMY nominations (963) beginning ANTUAN X. AARON, and ending D016144, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 30, 2021.

PN1216 ARMY nominations (40) beginning AMAR J. ARIAS, and ending D015031, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 30, 2021.

PN1217 ARMY nominations (456) beginning ANDREW J. ALLEN, and ending D001903, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 30, 2021.

PN1218 ARMY nominations (515) beginning APRIL N. ABBOTT, and ending D015964, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 30, 2021.

PN1268 ARMY nomination of Matthew L. Parker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2021.

PN1448 ARMY nomination of Shawn R. Jokinen, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2021.

PN1771 ARMY nomination of Robert J. Rowe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2022.

PN1772 ARMY nomination of Manuel C. Ruiz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2022.

PN1773 ARMY nominations (18) beginning JEFFREY M. BEEMAN, and ending ALEXANDER M. WILLARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2022.

PN1774 ARMY nominations (7) beginning JOSEPH V. DASILVA, and ending JASON R. ZUNIGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2022.

PN1775 ARMY nomination of Shaker F. Y. Saad, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2022.

PN1776 ARMY nominations (3) beginning WILLIAM T. FREAKLEY, and ending MASON W. THORNAL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2022.

PN1799 ARMY nominations (25) beginning BRION J. ADERMAN, and ending MARTIN R. YOST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1800 ARMY nomination of Daniel C. Canchola, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1801 ARMY nomination of Steven M. Wingo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1802 ARMY nomination of Nicholas S. Cavallaro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1803 ARMY nomination of Ernestina Delapenaguba, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2022.

PN1804 ARMY nomination of Gurdeep S. Buttar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1805 ARMY nomination of Ashlee B. McKeon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1806 ARMY nomination of D013344, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1807 ARMY nomination of Ram A. Parekh, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1818 ARMY nominations (18) beginning ZANE N. BEEGLE, and ending CODY D. WORKMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1854 ARMY nomination of Matthew B. Young, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2022.

PN1856 ARMY nomination of William M. Yund, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2022.

PN1857 ARMY nomination of Alex V. Funicello, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2022.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1643 MARINE CORPS nomination of Arlie L. Miller, which was received by the

Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 5, 2022.

IN THE NAVY

PN1808 NAVY nomination of Mulugeta D. Temesgen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

PN1809 NAVY nomination of John M. Rosati, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 28, 2022.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1819 SPACE FORCE nominations (10) beginning KYLE S. ALLEN, and ending NEAL R. ROACH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1820 SPACE FORCE nominations (3) beginning MATTHEW P. BRUNO, and ending SOL R. SNEDEKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1821 SPACE FORCE nominations (17) beginning KELLY S. ANDERSON, and ending JEFFREY E. WEISLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1822 SPACE FORCE nominations (48) beginning JAMES P. BANTA, and ending SCOTT M. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1823 SPACE FORCE nominations (82) beginning ARTEM S. AGOULNIK, and ending DONALD W. ZECK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1824 SPACE FORCE nominations (88) beginning CHRISTOPHER ALAN ALBRIGHT, and ending VICTOR J. ZIMMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1825 SPACE FORCE nominations (16) beginning ROBERT J. ALLEMAN, and ending EDWARD SEUNGLEE WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1826 SPACE FORCE nominations (105) beginning RACHEL T. ALESSI, and ending HEATHER L. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2022.

PN1859 SPACE FORCE nominations (5) beginning LUKE M. SAUTER, and ending ZACHARY W. FIELDS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2022.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 570, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 570) designating April 2022 as "National Native Plant Month".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the

motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 570) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS AND PULMONARY EMBOLISM AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 571, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 571) supporting the goals and ideals of Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 571) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AMENDING THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3969, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3969) to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to explicitly authorize distribution of grant funds to the voting accessibility protection and advocacy system of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the system serving the American Indian consortium, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3969) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3969

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access Program Inclusion Act" or the "PAVA Program Inclusion Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS TO VOTING ACCESSIBILITY PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS SERVING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND THE AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM.

(a) RECIPIENTS DEFINED.—Section 291 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21061) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF STATE.—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘State’ shall have the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002).

“(2) AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM ELIGIBLE.—A system serving the American Indian consortium for which funds have been reserved under section 509(c)(1)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794e(c)(1)(B)) shall be eligible for payments under subsection (a) in the same manner as a protection and advocacy system of a State.”.

(b) GRANT MINIMUMS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM.—Section 291(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21061(b)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(c)(1)(B),” after “as set forth in subsections”; and

(2) by striking “subsections (c)(3)(B) and (c)(4)(B) of that section shall be not less than \$70,000 and \$35,000, respectively.” and inserting the following: “subsection (c)(3)(B) shall not be less than \$70,000, and the amount of the grants to systems referred to in subsections (c)(1)(B) and (c)(4) shall not be less than \$35,000.”.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 2 shall take effect at the start of the first fiscal year starting after the date of the enactment of this Act.

RECOGNIZING THE 201ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 314, S. Res. 547.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 547) recognizing the 201st anniversary of Greek Independence and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. BALDWIN. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 547) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 15, 2022, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

BULB REPLACEMENT IMPROVING GOVERNMENT WITH HIGH-EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGY ACT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 274, S. 442.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 442) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 442) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 442

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bulb Replacement Improving Government with High-efficiency Technology Act" or the "BRIGHT Act".

SEC. 2. GUIDANCE.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall—

(1) issue guidance to Federal agencies for the procurement and use of the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems (as determined in accordance with section 3313 of title 40, United States Code) to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of the Federal Government; and

(2) publish on the internet or otherwise make available to State, local, and Tribal entities information on ways to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and economy by procuring and using the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems (as determined in accordance with section 3313 of title 40, United States Code).

SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT OF LIFE-CYCLE COST EFFECTIVE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h);

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (f) through (i), respectively;

(3) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through the end of subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“§3313. Procurement of life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of General Services.

“(2) LIGHTING SYSTEM.—The term ‘lighting system’ means the elements required to maintain a desired light level, including lamps, light fixtures, fixture distribution, sensors and control technologies, interior design elements, and daylighting sources.

“(b) PROCUREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall—

“(A) procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems; and

“(B) ensure that procurements after the date of enactment of the BRIGHT Act of lighting systems or the individual components of lighting systems maximize life-cycle cost effectiveness and energy efficiency.

“(2) USE.—Each public building constructed, altered, acquired, or leased by the Administrator shall be equipped, to the maximum extent practicable as determined by the Administrator, with the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems for each application.

“(c) MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—Each individual component of a lighting system, including a lamp or fixture, that is replaced by the Administrator in the normal course of maintenance of public buildings shall be replaced, to the maximum extent practicable, with the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting system possible for the application.

“(d) CONSIDERATIONS.—

“(1) CONTRACTING OPTIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall consider appropriate contracting options for the procurement of the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems.

“(2) PROCUREMENT AND USE.—In making a determination under this section concerning the practicability of procuring and installing the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting system, the Administrator shall consider—

“(A) the compatibility of the lighting system with existing equipment, including consideration of a cost effective retrofit;

“(B) whether procurement and use of the lighting system could result in interference with productivity;

“(C) the aesthetics relating to the use of the lighting system; and

“(D) such other factors as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

“(e) LIFE-CYCLE COST EFFECTIVE.—The Administrator shall use the procedures and methods established under section 544(a) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8254(a)) in determining whether a lighting system is life-cycle cost effective.”;

(4) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “lighting fixture or bulb” and inserting “lighting system”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “the fixture or bulb is” and inserting “the lighting system or the individual components of the lighting system are”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “fixture or bulb” and inserting “lighting system”;

(5) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by inserting “procurement and” before “use in public buildings”;

(6) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), by inserting “procurement and” before “use of energy efficient”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3313 and inserting the following:

“3313. Procurement of life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems.”.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY,
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-18, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$368.53 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-18

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the United Kingdom.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$368.53 million.

Total \$368.53 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-MDE: Follow-on support for all three segments of the United Kingdom's (UK) Tomahawk Weapon System (TWS). This includes the All Up Round (AUR), Tactical Tomahawk Weapon Control System (TTWCS) and Theater Mission Planning Center (TMPC). The support includes recertification of the UK's missiles; unscheduled missile maintenance; spares; procurement; training; in-service support; software; hardware; communication equipment; operational flight test; engineering and technical expertise to maintain the TWS capability;

and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (UK-P-FCS).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: UK-P-AGS, UK-P-AHA, UK-P-AHE, UK-P-AHJ, UK-PAHS, UK-P-FAY, UK-P-FBX, UK-P-GEK, UK-P-GWY, UK-P-GXQ, UK-P-GYU, UKP-LIS.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 29, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—Tomahawk Weapon System (TWS) Follow-On Support

The Government of the United Kingdom (UK) has requested to buy follow-on support for all three segments of the United Kingdom's Tomahawk Weapon System (TWS). This includes the All Up Round (AUR), Tactical Tomahawk Weapon Control System (TTWCS) and Theater Mission Planning Center (TMPC). The support includes recertification of the UK's missiles; unscheduled missile maintenance; spares; procurement; training; in-service support; software; hardware; communication equipment; operational flight test; engineering and technical expertise to maintain the TWS capability; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$368.53 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will sustain the operating capability of the United Kingdom, ensuring maritime forces' interoperability with United States and other allied forces as well as their ability to contribute to missions of mutual interest by delivering follow-on support and sustainment. By deploying the Tomahawk Weapon system, the United Kingdom contributes to global readiness and enhances the capability for the U.S. forces operating globally alongside them. The United Kingdom already operates this capability, and will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips by U.S. Government representatives and the assignment of contractor representatives to United Kingdom on an intermittent basis over the life of the case to support delivery and integration of items and to provide supply support management, inventory control and equipment familiarization. There will be one (1) U.S. Government representative and three (3) U.S. contractor representatives in the UK full-time for the duration of the case.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, March 30, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 1598, the nomination of Ernest W. DuBester, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2024, having been referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed 7 ayes to 7 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, March 30, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 1597, the nomination of Kurt Thomas Rumsfeld, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years, having been referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed 7 ayes to 7 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, March 30, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 1070, the nomination of Javier E. Saade, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift In-

vestment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2026, having been referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed 7 ayes to 7 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, March 30, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 1069, the nomination of Javier E. Saade, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2022, having been referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed 7 ayes to 7 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this March, as we mark National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, we must remember those we have lost to colorectal cancer, acknowledge the progress we have made to date to reduce colorectal cancer cases, and renew our commitment to fighting this devastating illness. Since its inception in 2000, National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month has given us the opportunity to raise awareness and remind people of the importance of cancer screening in the early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer.

While cases of colorectal cancer have declined, it is still the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the U.S. This year alone, more than 150,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Over 52,000 people will die from the disease. In 2018, 2,597 Marylanders were diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and 982 patients died from it.

Colorectal cancer has a disproportionate impact among racial and ethnic minorities, particularly Black Americans, Jews of Eastern European descent, and Indigenous communities. Black men are 22 percent more likely than non-Hispanic White men are, and Black women are 18 percent more likely than non-Hispanic White women to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer. American Indians and Alaska Natives are 10 percent more likely than non-Hispanic White Americans to die of colorectal cancer. Jews of Eastern European descent are two to three times more likely to get colorectal cancer than the greater population.

Fortunately, because of early detection and prevention tools, colorectal cancer is among the most preventable of all cancers. Colorectal cancer screenings not only detect the disease in its early stages, but can catch precancerous growths, or polyps, too. When these polyps are found, they can be removed and prevent cancer from occurring. Regular screening saves lives. Over 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could have been prevented with screening, but one in three adults in the U.S. aged 45 to 75 years old is still not getting screened as recommended. Colonoscopies are one of the most effective screening methods for colorectal cancer.

That is why I have long worked to increase access to colonoscopies. The Affordable Care Act ensured that Medicare would cover the cost of screening colonoscopies without cost-sharing for most seniors, but the work was not done. Since 2013, I led the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act with Senators Brown, Wicker, and Collins to ensure Medicare beneficiaries would not be charged for a colonoscopy, regardless of whether a polyp or tissue is removed. This legislation was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The law decreases barriers to screening by ensuring that seniors do not have to worry about unexpected medical costs if a polyp is detected and removed during a screening colonoscopy.

I am also proud of the work Maryland is doing to decrease rates of colorectal cancer. Through the Maryland Colorectal Cancer Control Program, Maryland has used funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—CDC—and the State's CRF Cancer Prevention Education, Screening, and Treatment Program to promote screening. The program partners with local health departments, community health centers, and various health systems, among other entities. Because of these and other initiatives, 72.5 percent of adults 50 years and older in Maryland were up-to-date with colorectal cancer screenings in 2018, slightly above the Healthy People 2020 target of 70.5 percent.

Still, we must do more to ensure younger Americans are aware of their risks of colorectal cancer and its symptoms and get the appropriate

screenings to prevent and detect the disease. This year, Fight Colorectal Cancer placed 27,400 blue flags on the National Mall to represent the number of people under 50 expected to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2030. The installation not only raises awareness of the increase in colorectal cancer in this younger population but also serves as a tribute to all those touched by the disease. By 2030, colorectal cancer is projected to be the leading cancer killer for those aged 20 to 49.

This is why continued investments in awareness and screening programs and research into effective treatments are so essential. Colorectal cancer research is one of the least funded among different cancers. I am proud of the work that the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute and other Maryland-based research institutions and healthcare providers have done to reduce colorectal cancer rates, but they all need more resources.

We have made progress in combating colorectal cancer, but there is more work for us to do. This is why I will continue to work my colleagues to fight this terrible disease.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TODD SCHNUCK

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a St. Louis, MO, resident whose name and family are synonymous with supermarkets across the Midwest. Todd Schnuck, a dedicated community and business leader, is being honored with the Glen Woodard Award for Outstanding Leadership in Public Affairs by the Food Industry Association.

Todd Schnuck is the third family member of the third generation of Schnucks to be CEO and chairman of Schnucks Markets, Inc., and has been a community and industry advocate since entering the family business in the late 1980s. During the next 30 years, his leadership built Schnucks into the food industry leader it is today.

Todd joined the family business after college in 1987 to help facilitate new acquisitions for the company. Over the next two decades, he would help Schnucks build its footprint throughout the Midwest through acquisitions and expansion. Schnucks has over 100 stores today and employs 15,000 associates spanning five States. In 2014, Todd was named CEO and chairman of Schnuck Markets, Inc., holding the same position his grandfather did when he started the company in 1939.

Along with the terrific work Todd has done for the business of Schnucks, he has been an even greater community leader. Todd has not only made Schnucks an employer of choice in the State of Missouri, but has worked closely with the United Way of Greater St. Louis. He is also currently chairman of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and holds board seats

with the Opportunity Trust and the Arch to Park Equity Fund.

I know firsthand what a strong advocate Todd is for the food industry. He is in a unique position to be a credible voice for the supermarket industry, spending his career leading and growing the family business. I congratulate Todd on the Glen Woodard Award for Outstanding Leadership in Public Affairs.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD B. TOBIN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the outstanding leadership of Donald B. Tobin, Esquire, as dean of the University of Maryland Francis Carey King School of Law, following his announcement that he will step down at the end of the 2021–2022 academic year and return to full-time teaching as a member of the Maryland Carey Law faculty. This decision concludes an 8-year chapter in service to the school's 645 students, 176 faculty members, and thousands of alumni. Dean Tobin has been a tireless advocate and instructor who truly treasures the law school community.

Donald Tobin has been dean and professor of law at my alma mater, the University of Maryland Francis Carey King School of Law located in Baltimore City, since 2014. Under his leadership, the law school has built upon two centuries of distinguished history to deliver its core academic mission of integrating legal theory and practice, serving as a resource and partner to neighboring communities and training the next generation of excellent lawyers and leaders. As dean, he has risen to meet the unprecedented challenges of the last decade.

Donald Tobin grew up in Columbia, MD, and began his career on Capitol Hill, as a professional staff member for my predecessor, the inimitable U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes. Donald also staffed the Senate Committee on the Budget and the Joint Economic Committee. He worked on the Hill before, during, and after the time he was attending law school at Georgetown University, where he earned his J.D. in 1996. It was here in this Chamber that Donald first contributed to policy at the national level. He went on to serve as a law clerk for the Honorable Francis Murnaghan, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and as an appellate attorney in the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Donald remains a leading expert on the intersection of tax and campaign finance laws, an area of law more critical to our democracy today than ever before.

Donald was professor of law and associate dean for academic affairs and associate dean for faculty at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law before he decided to come back home to Maryland. Given his wealth of expertise, I am particularly excited for him to rejoin the faculty as a professor in this next phase of his career. Donald

has demonstrated an abiding passion for education, scholarship, and the public service mission of the law school. He has wisely invested his time in understanding the needs of the Maryland legal and nonprofit community. And he has fostered a supportive community that provides personalized learning experiences, which empower the school's students to realize countless possible career pathways.

Donald has always provided a welcoming presence around the school. He has taught the popular "Lawyers as Leaders" class, and he has put his tax law knowledge and Maryland Bar membership to use by working with students in the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic.

The Clinical Law Program makes experiential education a core component of the law school's curriculum, and it makes advancing access to justice a prerequisite for graduation. This program is unique among law schools nationally.

The law school requires every student who initially enrolls as a first year, full-time day student to provide legal services to people who are poor or otherwise lack access to justice in order to graduate—a provision known as the "Cardin Requirement," which I championed. It attracts students who care deeply about their clients and their communities.

It is no surprise that students attracted to a law school for its spirit of excellence in public service would choose someone of Donald's character for its leader. He brings that same personal attention to the law school's relationships among its many constituents, the bar, and the surrounding community.

Donald's positivity and kind nature were critical to his success throughout a deanship "book-ended" by unthinkable events. In the aftermath of the killing of Freddie Gray in the spring of 2015, Donald led efforts to expand the law school's positive impact in the community, bolstering channels to local volunteer opportunities and providing forums for students and faculty to explore the systemic causes that led to Baltimore's unrest and to possible solutions. Donald redoubled the school's efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified and diverse students, while keeping legal education accessible and affordable. Our law firms, judicial benches, and nonprofit leadership should all equitably reflect Maryland's population. Donald's commitment to facilitating an inclusive law school community has brought us closer to this imperative.

As a member of the Law School Board of Visitors, I greatly appreciate Donald's support for establishing the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings '76 Scholarship Endowment at the law school in 2019. The scholarship pays apt tribute to our former colleague—another luminary of the Maryland congressional delegation—and to his many contributions to his District and to our

Nation as one of our most distinguished alumni. Board of visitors member and former chair Bob Kim—class of 1983—has spearheaded establishing the scholarship, which will support law school students who have an interest in public service, a record of academic excellence, and demonstrated financial need.

Toward what would be the end of his time as dean, Donald maintained a cohesive law school community despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Sustained high turnout at virtual versions of beloved events such as the alumni honors banquet and Morris Brown Myerowitz Moot Court Competition evinced this resilience and unity, with alumni volunteers serving as mock judges or interviewers, during a time of social distancing.

Even before the global pandemic, Donald took an active role in protecting student health and well-being, instituting Kindness Week to promote student resources and self-care in partnership with the board of visitors.

William Butler Yeats wrote, “Education is not the filling of a pot but the lighting of a fire.” For over 20 years now, Donald Tobin has been lighting fires among his students, and their glow has brought light to the law school community, the city, our State, and the Nation. I thank him for his tremendous service to the law school’s students, faculty, staff and alumni, and I wish him well on this exciting new chapter in his exemplary career.●

TRIBUTE TO KATERYNA RIDLEY

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Kateryna Ridley of Dover as March’s Granite Stater of the Month. Kateryna, who is originally from Ukraine, is spearheading efforts in Dover to support her home country after Putin’s unconscionable invasion of Ukraine.

As Kateryna watched Russia’s attack, she agonized over whether her friends and family in Ukraine were safe or had access to essential goods. As she continued to receive worrying calls from friends and family, she decided that she needed to take action to help her Ukrainian community.

Kateryna’s effort started with a trip to the store to buy blue and yellow paint, along with wood and other supplies that she used to create small Ukrainian flags. She went on to share her creations over social media, and within 4 days, she received 100 orders from people who were eager to show their support for Ukraine. Today, the total number of orders is well over 300, and Kateryna is donating her profits to help get Ukrainians everyday necessities.

Kateryna also spearheaded efforts to collect donations such as medical supplies, first aid, personal hygiene supplies, and baby items to send to Ukraine. She coordinated with Dover community leaders to organize a donation drive for Ukraine at a recent rally,

and she was overjoyed with the response from her community as countless neighbors donated goods and came up to her to express their support and sympathy for the people of Ukraine.

During a time of immense duress—worrying for the safety of her family and friends back at home—Kateryna has found a way to make a real difference. From working in her woodshop for hours, to organizing donations of essential goods to Ukraine, Kateryna is working hard from the Granite State to reach her Ukrainian community during their time of need. I commend her for her efforts and for her spirit, which reflects the best of our State.

Kateryna is one of many Granite Staters, representing our Live Free or Die State, who is stepping up to support Ukrainians amid Putin’s horrific war. As the U.S. and our allies continue to impose crippling sanctions on Russia and send military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, individual efforts from people like Kateryna are making a tangible difference in Ukrainians’ lives. They are showing Ukrainians and the world that New Hampshire—and the United States—stands with them, for their freedom and democracy.●

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER MARANDA GRAYSON

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, everyone sworn law enforcement officer knows full well that he or she is never truly off-duty. On February 27, 2022, Louisville Metro Department of Corrections officer, Maranda Grayson, was relaxing at home when she heard gunshots. She immediately retrieved her duty weapon, called for emergency services, and ran toward the gunfire outside, where she discovered a badly injured neighbor and saw a bleeding child being carried inside. Unable to locate the source of the gunfire, Officer Grayson focused her initial actions on the wounded child. A trained first responder, she applied a dressing to his hand and then returned outside, where she performed CPR on the adult victim until additional emergency services arrived.

These were moments of true heroism, which probably seemed like hours to Officer Grayson and the victims. For these actions, she has been recognized with her department’s Award of Valor for “bravery above and beyond the call of duty when facing grave and imminent danger to her own life.”

Louisville Metro Department of Corrections director Dwayne Clark said that “she represents the neighbor we all want.” I couldn’t agree more, and I am proud to honor Officer Grayson for her professionalism and tremendous bravery.●

TRIBUTE TO GILDA JACOBS

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an accomplished and highly regarded leader in Michigan’s field of public service, Gilda Jacobs

who recently retired from serving as president and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy. Gilda has made an immeasurable impact on the Detroit metropolitan area and the State of Michigan over the past 30 years, and it is a privilege to recognize her here today and celebrate her retirement.

Gilda began her career as an educator, graduating from the University of Michigan in 1971 with a masters in behavioral science in education. Following her graduation, Gilda began working as a special education teacher in the Madison School District in Oakland County, MI. Gilda taught one of the Detroit region’s first classes for children with emotional disabilities. It was her role as a leader in the rapidly developing field of special education services that led her to begin engaging in local activism, community organizations, and politics.

In 1978, she was asked to work first as the campaign manager and then as a district office manager for newly-elected State Senator Doug Ross. In helping Senator Ross launch his political career, Jacobs set in motion the beginning of her own. In 1981, after a contentious election, Gilda was elected to the Huntington Woods City Commission, the first woman to do so. In 1994, she ran for and was elected to serve her community as an Oakland County Commissioner. Four years after this, she was elected to serve two terms in Michigan’s House of Representatives. At this time, I represented a portion of her district in the State senate and had the pleasure of collaborating with her on many initiatives on behalf of our constituents. I knew the senate district was in capable hands when she succeeded me, winning the seat in 2002. Her strong reputation as an effective leader in championing issues and getting things done were immediately recognized by her colleagues who elected her chair of the senate’s Democratic caucus, making Gilda the first woman to serve as floor leader in either chamber of Michigan’s Legislature.

As a State-elected official, Gilda was a tireless advocate for the rights of women, children, and people with disabilities. In the State legislature, she served as the vice chair of the economic development, small business and regulatory reform committee, the families and human services committee, and government operations and health policy committees. Among her many successes were the establishment of a bipartisan bicameral talent caucus to develop strategies to encourage Michigan entrepreneurship and discourage college graduate flight.

In 2011, following the conclusion of her leadership and service in the Michigan Senate, Gilda joined the Michigan League for Public Policy as president and CEO. At the Michigan League for Public Policy, Gilda focused on the promotion of racial equality, economic security, and the overall health and well-being of Michiganders. During her

tenure she helped the organization move major policy victories, including, among others, successfully defending the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit; raising the age at which Michigan's juveniles can be tried as adults, and changing the asset test on food and cash assistance in the State, allowing more residents to be eligible for assistance. As a result of her leadership and tireless devotion, the State of Michigan has seen progress in policy for Michigan's youth, women, and families.

During a time of great personal loss, Gilda—and her late husband John—worked on developing policy efforts to better ensure railroad safety after their daughter, Rachel, was tragically killed in the Philadelphia Amtrak crash of May 2015. Although confronted with unimaginable grief, they felt it essential to address the issue head on, advocating for enhanced safety measures so no other family would experience what they did during that horrific time.

Gilda's contributions go well beyond her professional endeavors. In addition to serving as a public representative and policy maker, she has been a lifelong volunteer for numerous causes and organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and New Detroit, and the JARC—a Michigan-based nonprofit dedicated to enriching the lives of those with disabilities. She was further recognized as one of Crain's Detroit Business 100 most influential women and awarded the Michigan Food Bank Council Hunger-Free Award in 2015.

I cannot understate the impact that Gilda Jacobs has had on the people of Michigan. She has spearheaded initiatives to eliminate hunger and support Michigan's families, promoted positive changes in our communities, and created a model for public service that is unmatched. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gilda's many years of work on behalf of others, and congratulating her on a well-earned retirement from the Michigan League for Public Policy. Though her leadership there will be sorely missed, her legacy will most certainly endure.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, on of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13664 OF APRIL 3, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH SUDAN—PM 27

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan is to continue in effect beyond April 3, 2022.

The situation in and in relation to South Sudan, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan and the surrounding region, including widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, and obstruction of humanitarian operations, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 30, 2022.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13694 OF APRIL 1, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT MALICIOUS CYBER-ENABLED ACTIVITIES—PM 28

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to

the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities, is to continue in effect beyond April 1, 2022.

Significant malicious cyber-enabled activities originating from, or directed by persons located, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 30, 2022.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13536 OF APRIL 12, 2010, WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—PM 29

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2022.

The situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 30, 2022.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2629. An act to establish cybercrime reporting mechanisms, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2954. An act to increase retirement savings, simplify and clarify retirement plan rules, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3359. An act to provide for a system for reviewing the case files of cold case murders at the instance of certain persons, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4738. An act to direct the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to establish a history project to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials, written materials, and photographs of those who were affected by COVID-19, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6865. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2954. An act to increase retirement savings, simplify and clarify retirement plan rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3359. An act to provide for a system for reviewing the case files of cold case murders at the instance of certain persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4738. An act to direct the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to establish a history project to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials, written materials, and photographs of those who were affected by COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 6865. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3483. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, a semi-annual report relative to telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba during the period from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3484. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide military assistance to Ukraine, including for

self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3485. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide military assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3486. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Sections 506(a)(1) and 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3487. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Sections 506(a)(1) and 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3488. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2022-0031-2022-0051); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3489. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3490. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Report to Congress, Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3491. A communication from the Team Lead for Regulations, Reorganizations, and Reporting, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Health Reassessment and Immediate Termination of Order Suspending the Right to Introduce Certain Persons from Countries Where a Quarantinable Communicable Disease Exists with Respect to Unaccompanied Noncitizen Children" (RIN0920-ZA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3492. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2022-05, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2022-05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 15, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3493. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2021-008, Amendments to the FAR Buy American Act Requirements" ((RIN 9000-AO22) (FAC 2022-05)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 15, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3494. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Colum-

bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-345, "Closing of a portion of Maryland Avenue, S.W. between Independence Avenue and 6th Street, S.W., and the transfer of jurisdiction of portions of Independence Avenue and 4th and 6th Streets, S.W., S.O. 17-26507, Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3495. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for a report relative to compliance by the United States courts of appeals and district courts with the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3496. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for two reports entitled, "2021 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts" and "Judicial Business of the United States Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3497. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asylum Interview Interpreter Requirement Modification Due to COVID-19; Extension" (RIN1615-AC59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3498. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2022; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3499. A communication from the Chief, Administrative Law Division, Central Intelligence Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2022; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-3500. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, an explanation and justification for revisions to the Federal Election Commission Form 1 and the instructions for the form; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with a preamble:

S. Res. 427. A resolution to commemorate the 30-year anniversary of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements with Cambodia and to call upon all signatories to those Agreements to fulfill their commitments to secure a peaceful, prosperous, democratic, and sovereign Cambodia.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Dana Katherine Bilyeu, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2023.

*Leona M. Bridges, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2023.

*Stacie Olivares, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2024.

*Krista Anne Boyd, of Florida, to be Inspector General, Office of Personnel Management.

*Michael F. Gerber, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2022.

*Michael F. Gerber, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2026.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3952. A bill to establish a new higher education data system to allow for more accurate, complete, and secure data on student retention, graduation, and earnings outcomes, at all levels of postsecondary enrollment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3953. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to increase usage of the Federal student loan income-based repayment plan and improve repayment options for borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3954. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3955. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for starter 401(k)s for employers with no retirement plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3956. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a grant program to improve the effectiveness of education and outreach on "Do Not Flush" labeling, and to require the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, to issue regulations requiring certain products to have "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3957. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to make certain activities eligible for grants from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 3958. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping duties and countervailing duties; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LEE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3959. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the authority to suspend the right to introduce certain persons or property into the United States in the interest of the public health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 3960. A bill to establish the CCP Initiative program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3961. A bill to permit a registered investment company to omit certain fees from the calculation of acquired fund fees and expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3962. A bill to establish a comprehensive United States strategy to address the national security threat posed by the People's Republic of China's control of nearly 2/3 of the global supply of critical minerals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3963. A bill to protect survivors from brain injury by authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect data on the prevalence of brain injuries resulting from domestic and sexual violence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 3964. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 3965. A bill to provide that broker-dealers who provide research services to an investment manager and receive payments from certain accounts is not an investment adviser, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 3966. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to define secondary offerings of Regulation A tier 2 securities as covered securities for purposes of an exemption from State regulation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 3967. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to preempt State securities law re-

quiring registration for secondary transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3968. A bill to improve State, local, and Tribal public health security; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3969. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to explicitly authorize distribution of grant funds to the voting accessibility protection and advocacy system of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the system serving the American Indian consortium, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of Bahrain of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 567. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 15, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 568. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month" and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 569. A resolution supporting the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 570. A resolution designating April 2022 as "National Native Plant Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. Res. 571. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 193

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 193, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to update the modeling used

for lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments for corn-based ethanol and biodiesel, and for other purposes.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 663, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library, in accordance with section 1831 of the Revised Statutes, to accept a statue depicting Harriet Tubman from the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of Maryland and display the statue in a prominent location in the Capitol.

S. 1566

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1566, a bill to provide grants to enable nonprofit disability organizations to develop training programs that support safe interactions between law enforcement officers and individuals with disabilities and older individuals.

S. 1731

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1731, a bill to provide certain coverage of audiologist services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1806

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1806, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend tax incentives for biodiesel and renewable diesel.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1924, a bill to direct the President to enforce the intellectual property provisions of the Economic and Trade Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of China, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to replace the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol with a bust of Thurgood Marshall to be obtained by the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library and to remove certain statues from areas of the Capitol which are accessible to the public, to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily

served the Confederate States of America from display in the Capitol, and for other purposes.

S. 2475

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2475, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide investment and production tax credits for emerging energy technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 2512

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2512, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States.

S. 2513

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2513, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the application and review process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for clothing allowance claims submitted by veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2607, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3176, a bill to establish a cause of action for those harmed by exposure to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and for other purposes.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to improve the semiconductor incentive program of the Department of Commerce.

S. 3738

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3738, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to listing the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

S. 3802

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3802, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a windfall profits excise tax on crude oil and to rebate the tax collected back to individual taxpayers, and for other purposes.

S. 3871

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3871, a bill to provide a means for Congress to prevent an organization's designation as a foreign terrorist organization from being revoked by the Secretary of State.

S. RES. 549

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 549, a resolution supporting the transfer of aircraft and air defense systems to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 567—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY ON MARCH 15, 2022

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 567

Whereas since its founding more than a century ago, the social work profession has been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable among us;

Whereas the theme of Social Work Month 2022, "The Time is Right for Social Work", embodies how social workers have been an essential workforce in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, even as the Nation continues to grapple with systemic racism, gender-based violence, homophobia, transphobia, economic inequality, climate change, and other challenges;

Whereas social workers are a large, racially and socioeconomically diverse mental and behavioral health workforce in the United States, and social workers provide culturally competent, evidence-based services in the community in a broad range of settings, including healthcare, schools, community clinics, private practice, child welfare agencies, and correctional facilities;

Whereas social workers continue to advocate for social justice and equal rights for all, especially for vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized people;

Whereas social work is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, with more than 700,000 social workers today and a projected increase to 800,000 by 2028;

Whereas social workers are leaders in creating and implementing public policies that improve health and well-being, strengthen the social fabric, and ensure a more just society.

Whereas social workers serve in all levels of government, including Congress, where there are 5 social workers currently in office;

Whereas social workers develop evidence-based interventions that address a number of the most vexing problems facing society, and social workers conduct cutting-edge research that informs both policy and practice;

Whereas there is a need—

(1) to ensure accuracy of workforce data surrounding the social work profession so that data projections adequately reflect the depth and breadth of social work practice across settings, as well as the needs of the clients and communities served by the profession; and

(2) to make meaningful investments in the social work profession to address challenges associated with recruitment and retention in recognition of the pressing need for such professionals and the crucial services they provide; and

Whereas social workers meet individuals no matter where those individuals are in their life circumstances and empower those individuals to fulfill their potential: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 15, 2022;

(2) acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and groups who promote the importance of social work and observe Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(3) encourages individuals to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities to promote further awareness of the life-changing role that social workers play; and

(4) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of social workers who have advanced individual, family, and community well-being since the founding of the social work profession more than a century ago.

SENATE RESOLUTION 568—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “COUNTERING INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION MONTH” AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD RAISE AWARENESS OF THE HARM CAUSED BY INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 568

Whereas thousands of children have been abducted from the United States by parents, separating those children from their parents who remain in the United States;

Whereas it is illegal under section 1204 of title 18, United States Code, to remove, or attempt to remove, a child from the United States or to retain a child (who has been in the United States) outside of the United States with the intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights;

Whereas 9,816 children were reported abducted from the United States between 2010 and 2020;

Whereas, during 2020, 1 or more cases of international parental child abduction involving children who are citizens of the United States were identified in 106 countries around the world;

Whereas the United States is a party to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of Inter-

national Child Abduction, done at The Hague, October 25, 1980 (TIAS 11670) (referred to in this preamble as the “Hague Convention on Abduction”), which—

(1) supports the prompt return of wrongly removed or retained children; and

(2) calls for all participating parties to respect parental custody rights;

Whereas the majority of children who were abducted from the United States have yet to be reunited with their custodial parents;

Whereas, between 2015 and 2021, Argentina, the Bahamas, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nicaragua, Peru, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates were identified under the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) as engaging in a pattern of noncompliance (as defined in section 3 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 9101));

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States has recognized that family abduction—

(1) is a form of child abuse with potentially “devastating consequences for a child”, which may include negative impacts on the physical and mental well-being of the child; and

(2) may cause a child to “experience a loss of community and stability, leading to loneliness, anger, and fear of abandonment”;

Whereas, according to the 2010 Report on Compliance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by the Department of State, an abducted child is at risk of significant short- and long-term problems, including “anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, [and] aggressive behavior”;

Whereas international parental child abduction has devastating emotional consequences for the child and for the parent from whom the child is separated;

Whereas the United States has a history of promoting child welfare through institutions including—

(1) the Children’s Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(2) the Office of Children’s Issues of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State;

Whereas the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction, through dedicated advocacy and regular testimony, has highlighted the importance of this issue to Congress and called on successive administrations to take concerted action to stop international parental child abduction and repatriate kidnapped United States children;

Whereas Congress has signaled a commitment to ending international parental child abduction by enacting—

(1) the International Child Abduction Remedies Act (22 U.S.C. 9001 et seq.);

(2) the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-173), which enacted section 1204 of title 18, United States Code; and

(3) the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.);

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 543, 112th Congress, agreed to on December 4, 2012, condemning the international abduction of children;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 431, 115th Congress, agreed to on April 19, 2018, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, international parental child abduction;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 23, 116th Congress, agreed to on April 11, 2019, to raise awareness of the harm

caused by international parental child abduction;

Whereas Congress calls upon the Department of State to fully utilize the tools available under the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) to negotiate, and make publicly available, bilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding—

(1) with countries not parties to the Hague Convention on Abduction to resolve abduction and access cases; and

(2) regarding open abduction and access cases predating the Hague Convention on Abduction with countries that have thereafter become parties to the Hague Convention on Abduction;

Whereas all 50 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws criminalizing parental kidnapping;

Whereas, in 2020, the Prevention Branch of the Office of Children’s Issues of the Department of State—

(1) fielded more than 4,200 inquiries from the general public relating to preventing a child from being removed from the United States; and

(2) enrolled more than 3,000 children in the Children’s Passport Issuance Alert Program, which—

(A) is one of the most important tools of the Department of State for preventing international parental child abduction; and

(B) allows the Office of Children’s Issues to contact the enrolling parent or legal guardian to verify whether the parental consent requirement has been met when a passport application has been submitted for an enrolled child;

Whereas the Department of State cannot track the ultimate destination of a child through the use of the passport issued by the Department of State if the child is transported to a third country after departing from the United States;

Whereas a child who is a citizen of the United States may have another nationality and may travel using a passport issued by another country, which—

(1) increases the difficulty of determining the whereabouts of the child; and

(2) makes efforts to prevent abduction more critical;

Whereas, during 2020, 185 children were returned to the United States, and an additional 72 cases were resolved in other ways; and

Whereas, in 2020, the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Prevention Branch of the Office of Children’s Issues of the Department of State, enrolled 200 children in the Prevent Abduction Program, which is aimed at preventing international parental child abduction through coordination with the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers at the airport, seaport, or land border ports of entry by intercepting the child before departure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and observes “Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month” during the period beginning on April 1, 2022, and ending on April 30, 2022, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, international parental child abduction; and

(2) urges the United States to continue playing a leadership role in raising awareness about the devastating impacts of international parental child abduction by educating the public about the negative emotional, psychological, and physical consequences to children and parents victimized by international parental child abduction.

SENATE RESOLUTION 569—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 569

Whereas, in 2020, nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the global population was infected with the tuberculosis bacterium (referred to in this preamble as “TB”);

Whereas the World Health Organization (referred to in this preamble as the “WHO”) estimates that 9,900,000 people developed TB in 2020, 8 percent of whom were also infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this preamble as “HIV”);

Whereas, in 2020, TB killed an estimated 1,514,000 people, second only to coronavirus disease 2019 (referred to in this preamble as “COVID-19”) as a leading cause of death from a single infectious agent;

Whereas, globally in 2020, an estimated 1,100,000 children developed TB, and in 2020, 228,972 children died of TB;

Whereas $\frac{2}{3}$ of new TB infections in 2020 occurred in 8 countries: India, Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and South Africa;

Whereas TB is a leading killer of people infected with HIV, and 214,000 people with HIV died of TB in 2020;

Whereas vulnerable populations also at high risk for developing TB include individuals who are pregnant and newborns;

Whereas, in 2020, TB was the 13th leading cause of death;

Whereas, in some settings, women with TB can face stigma, discrimination, and ostracization by their families and communities;

Whereas the global TB epidemic and the spread of drug-resistant TB present a persistent public health threat to the United States because the disease does not recognize borders;

Whereas antibiotic-resistant pathogens are a growing problem worldwide, and drug-resistant TB can occur when the drugs used to treat TB are mismanaged or not made consistently accessible;

Whereas studies have demonstrated direct person-to-person transmission of drug-resistant TB;

Whereas multi-drug resistant TB (referred to in this preamble as “MDR-TB”) is caused by bacteria with resistance to rifampin and isoniazid, the 2 most potent treatments for TB infection;

Whereas, in 2020, according to the 2021 WHO Global Tuberculosis Report, an estimated 3 to 4 percent of all new TB cases and 18 to 21 percent of previously treated cases were MDR-TB or rifampin-resistant TB;

Whereas, in 2020, an estimated 297,000 people around the world developed MDR-TB or rifampin-resistant TB, yet only approximately 1 in 3 of those individuals were identified and treated;

Whereas extensively drug-resistant TB (referred to in this preamble as “XDR-TB”) is a rare type of TB that is resistant to nearly all medicines, and therefore can be very difficult and expensive to treat, especially among patients with HIV;

Whereas, in 2020, 25,681 cases of XDR-TB were reported;

Whereas, in 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as “CDC”) estimated that the average cost of treating a single patient with MDR-TB in the United States was \$182,186, and the average cost of treating a patient

with XDR-TB was even higher at \$567,708, compared with \$20,211 to treat a patient with drug-susceptible TB;

Whereas, between 2005 and 2007, according to an analysis by the CDC, MDR-TB and XDR-TB cases in the United States collectively cost the health care system an estimated \$53,000,000;

Whereas the CDC estimates that costs resulting from all forms of TB in the United States totaled more than \$503,000,000 in 2020;

Whereas, in a 2000 report, the Institute of Medicine found that a decrease in TB control funding and the spread of HIV and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (commonly referred to as “AIDS”) caused a resurgence of TB in the late 1980s and early 1990s;

Whereas a total of 7,174 TB cases were reported in the United States in 2020, representing all 50 States and the District of Columbia, and up to 13,000,000 people in the United States are estimated to be living with latent TB infection;

Whereas the rate of TB disease in African Americans is 8.5 times higher than the rate of disease in White, non-Hispanic Americans, and significant disparities exist among other minorities in the United States, including Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans and Alaska Natives, with approximately 89 percent of all reported TB cases in the United States in 2020 occurring in racial or ethnic minorities;

Whereas smoking—

(1) greatly increases the risks of contracting TB and infection recurrence; and

(2) impairs therapeutic efficacy;

Whereas diabetes is a major risk factor for TB, and people with diabetes are more likely to develop and succumb to TB;

Whereas bedaquiline is an antibiotic that boosts the chance of survival for an MDR-TB patient from approximately 50 percent to as much as 80 percent, and through a public-private partnership, the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this preamble as “USAID”) provided approximately 105,000 treatments in 110 eligible countries from 2015 through 2019;

Whereas Bacillus Calmette-Guerin, a TB vaccine that is known as BCG, provides some protection to infants and young children against serious forms of childhood TB but has had little epidemiologic impact on controlling TB worldwide;

Whereas there is a critical need for new drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines for controlling the global TB epidemic;

Whereas, in September 2018, the United Nations held the first high-level meeting on TB at which 120 countries, including the United States, signed a political declaration committing to accelerating the TB response, including by increasing funding for TB control programs and research and development efforts, with the goal of reaching all affected people with TB prevention and care;

Whereas the enactment of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918) and the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-392; 122 Stat. 4195) led to a historic United States commitment to support the global eradication of TB, including a commitment to treat 4,500,000 TB patients and 90,000 MDR-TB patients between 2009 and 2013 and to provide additional treatment through coordinated multilateral efforts;

Whereas USAID—

(1) provides technical assistance to 55 countries and implements bilateral programs in 23 high-burden TB countries that—

(A) build capacity; and

(B) support the adoption of state-of-the-art TB-related technologies;

(2) supports the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools; and

(3) supports research to develop new vaccines and other new methods to combat TB; Whereas, in 2018, USAID launched—

(1) a new business model entitled “Global Accelerator to End Tuberculosis” to accelerate progress and build capacity with respect to TB prevention and treatment; and

(2) a new mechanism to directly support local organizations in priority countries;

Whereas TB incidence in the countries that receive bilateral TB funding from the United States through USAID has decreased by more than 29 percent since 2000;

Whereas, according to the Copenhagen Consensus Center, TB prevention programs return \$56 for each dollar invested, which is one of the highest returns on investment of any health intervention;

Whereas the CDC, in partnership with other entities of the United States and individual States and territories—

(1) directs the national TB elimination program;

(2) coordinates TB surveillance, technical assistance, and prevention activities; and

(3) helps to support the development of new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools to combat TB;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health, through its many institutes and centers, plays the leading role in basic and clinical research on the identification, treatment, and prevention of TB;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (referred to in this preamble as the “Global Fund”), to which the United States is a top financial donor, provides more than 77 percent of all international financing for TB programs;

Whereas, in 2020, programs supported by the Global Fund detected and treated more than 4,700,000 cases of TB;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigation efforts put in place as a result of the pandemic have taken a devastating toll on countries with the highest burden of TB disease and on the global TB response, threatening to reverse up to 8 years of progress fighting the disease;

Whereas, in 2020, in the 23 high-burden TB countries in which USAID implements bilateral programs, 1,000,000 fewer people with TB had access to diagnosis and treatment, a 23 percent decline from 2019;

Whereas, between 2020 and 2025, global projections estimate that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will lead to an additional 6,300,000 cases of TB and an additional 1,400,000 TB deaths; and

Whereas March 24, 2022, is World Tuberculosis Day, a day that commemorates the date in 1882 on which Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium that causes TB: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis;

(2) commends the progress of tuberculosis elimination efforts by entities that include the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment to strengthen the leadership role of the United States in, and the effectiveness of the global response to, the fight to end the tuberculosis epidemic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 570—DESIGNATING APRIL 2022 AS “NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MONTH”

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 570

Whereas there are more than 17,000 native plant species in the United States, which include trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers;

Whereas native plants help prevent flooding, drought, and erosion and can help restore damaged ecosystems;

Whereas native plants provide shelter as well as nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot;

Whereas more than 200 of the native plant species in the United States are estimated to have been lost since the early 19th century;

Whereas habitat loss and degradation, extreme weather events, and invasive species have contributed to the decline of native plants in the United States; and

Whereas native plants are essential components of resilient ecosystems and our natural heritage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2022 as “National Native Plant Month”; and

(2) recognizes the benefits of native plants to the environment and economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 571—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS AND PULMONARY EMBOLISM AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 571

Whereas deep vein thrombosis (referred to in this preamble as “DVT”) is a condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in the deep veins of the body, such as in the arm, abdomen, around the brain, and most commonly in the leg;

Whereas a potentially life-threatening complication of DVT is pulmonary embolism (referred to in this preamble as “PE”), where a blood clot breaks off, travels through the blood stream, and lodges in the lung;

Whereas DVT and PE are serious but often preventable medical conditions;

Whereas DVT and PE affect as many as 900,000 individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas DVT and PE kill an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 individuals in the United States each year, and 1 out of 4 individuals who have a PE die without warning;

Whereas DVT and PE deaths are often preventable;

Whereas DVT and PE are the leading causes of preventable hospital death in the United States;

Whereas DVT and PE are a common complication faced by cancer patients, and survival rates are lower for individuals with cancer who also have blood clots;

Whereas pregnancy increases the risk of DVT and PE, and that risk remains elevated for up to 3 months after giving birth;

Whereas immobility, surgery, older age, and a family history of clotting and thrombophilia increase the risk of DVT and PE;

Whereas DVT and PE contributes to up to \$10,000,000,000 in incremental medical costs each year in the United States; and

Whereas the establishment of March as Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month would raise awareness about this life-threatening but preventable condition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month; and

(2) recognizes the importance of raising awareness of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 1:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

The Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 31; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be

closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 310, H.R. 4373, the legislative vehicle for COVID funding; that at 11:45 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on the confirmations of the Geraghty and Castner nominations in the order listed; that upon the disposition of the Castner nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 4373 ripen at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday’s session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. BALDWIN. Senators should expect two rollcall votes at 11:45 a.m. and one rollcall vote at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:34 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CANDACE A. BOND, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

TIMMY T. DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF QATAR.

PUNEET TALWAR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

MICHAEL J. LOMBARDO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022, VICE MARIA ROSARIO JACKSON, TERM EXPIRED.

MICHAEL J. LOMBARDO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NASSER H. PAYDAR, OF INDIANA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE ROBERT L. KING.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

ALVARO M. BEDOYA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2019.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 30, 2022:

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

JUDITH DELZOPPO PRYOR, OF OHIO, TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2025.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY CONTRERAS, OF ARIZONA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) PAUL J. SCHLISE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARIA B. BARRETT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. THOMAS J. TICKNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES AS INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TINA B. BOYD

BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH A. EDWARDS II

BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY W. JURASEK

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN P. CASE

COL. RICHARD W. CORNER II

COL. KENT J. LIGHTNER

COL. TODD W. TRAVER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JEFFREY J. KILIAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. CARREY H. CASH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. GEORGE E. BRESNIHAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MATTHEW CASE

CAPT. GUIDO F. VALDES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. TRACY L. HINES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. RYAN M. PERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JOHN E. DOUGHERTY IV

CAPT. KEITH A. HASH

CAPT. JONATHAN E. RUCKER

CAPT. DOUGLAS L. WILLIAMS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DOUGLAS F. STITT

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE

OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARGARET H. BLAIS

COL. BRUCE A. COWAN

COL. BRIAN C. ELBERT

COL. GREGORY KRANE

COL. CHARLES W. NICHOLS, JR.

COL. MATHEW C. WENTHE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MICHAEL L. BAKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS OF THE NAVY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY WHILE SERVING IN THAT POSITION UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8082:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) GREGORY N. TODD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JEFFREY T. ANDERSON

REAR ADM. (LH) ANTHONY C. CARULLO

REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD J. CHEESEMAN, JR.

REAR ADM. (LH) CRAIG A. CLAPPERTON

REAR ADM. (LH) CHRISTOPHER M. ENGDahl

REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT M. GAUCHER

REAR ADM. (LH) CARL A. LAHTI

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN V. MENONI

REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM P. PENNINGTON

REAR ADM. (LH) CURT A. RENSHAW

REAR ADM. (LH) SCOTT F. ROBERTSON

REAR ADM. (LH) MILTON J. SANDS III

REAR ADM. (LH) CHRISTOPHER J. SWEENEY

REAR ADM. (LH) DOUGLAS C. VERISSIMO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN S. LEMMON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) NICHOLAS M. HOMAN

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL J. VERNAZZA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) THOMAS J. MOREAU

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JAMES J. MINGUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN R. SMITH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. LUKE A. FROST

CAPT. MARK B. SUCATO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT, OF GEORGIA, TO BE SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER L. ALLAM AND ENDING WITH CURTIS J. WOZNIAK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JUSTIN L. JOFFRION AND ENDING WITH BETH L. MAKROS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NEALY P. BROWN AND ENDING WITH RICHARD ALTON STEEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE A. GONZALEZ AND ENDING WITH CLAYTON L. RICKS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REBECCA A. BURBRIDGE AND ENDING WITH BRIAN A. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DARREN STEELE BEASLEY AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY M. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRAVIS W. GERLACH AND ENDING WITH BENJAMIN G. ROMICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER J. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH ALEXIS K. STUCKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL M. AFLAGUE AND ENDING WITH JAMES B. MCMANUS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JARED ROBERT BRANDT AND ENDING WITH SARAH R. SPETH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY S. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER P. ZORICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HEATHER D. HARRIS AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY DANIEL RAY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CYNTHIA L. ALVARADO AND ENDING WITH SHELLEY J. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS F. ALBRECHT AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM STANLEY YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRICIA L. HILL AND ENDING WITH DONALD T. YAP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER D. CORLISS, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES M. BLAKE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTUAN X. AARON AND ENDING WITH D016144, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AMAR J. ARIAS AND ENDING WITH D015631, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW J. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH D001905, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH APRIL N. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH D015864, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW L. PARKER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHAWN R. JOKINEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. ROWE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MANUEL C. RUIZ, TO BE MAJOR. ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY M. BEEMAN AND ENDING WITH ALEXANDER M. WILLARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH V. DASILVA AND ENDING WITH JASON R. ZUNIGA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHAKER F. Y. SAAD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM T. FREAKLEY AND ENDING WITH MASON W. THORNAL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN J. ADERMAN AND ENDING WITH MARTIN R. YOST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DANIEL C. CANCHOLA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEVEN M. WINGO, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS S. CAVALLARO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERNESTINA DELAPENAGUBA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL .

ARMY NOMINATION OF GURDEEP S. BUTTAR, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ASHLEE B. MCKEON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF D013344, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RAM A. PAREKH, TO BE MAJOR. ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ZANE N. BEEGLE AND ENDING WITH CODY D. WORKMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW B. YOUNG, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM M. YUND, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ALEX V. FUNICELLO, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ARLIE L. MILLER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF MULUGETA D. TEMESGEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER .

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN M. ROSATI, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KYLE S. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH NEAL R. ROACH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW P. BRUNO AND ENDING WITH SOL R. SNEDEKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLY S. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY E. WEISLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES P. BANTA AND ENDING WITH SCOTT M. WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ARTEM S. AGOULNIK AND ENDING WITH DONALD W. ZECK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND AP-

PEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER ALAN ALBRIGHT AND ENDING WITH VICTOR J. ZIMMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT J. ALLEMAN AND ENDING WITH EDWARD SEUNGLEE WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RACHEL T. ALESSI AND ENDING WITH HEATHER L. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2022.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LUKE M. SAUTER AND ENDING WITH ZACHARY W. FIELDS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 10, 2022.